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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

## Yuschenko says gains in economy indicate beginning of growth

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko on March 7 announced the first gains in Ukraine's economy in nearly nine years of independence when he told a group of foreign diplomats that the country's gross domestic product had risen by 3.5 percent in January over the same period during the previous year.

He added that industrial output had risen nearly 5 percent over the last year in the January-February time frame and that the rise in industrial production from January to February was some 10 percent, while the agricultural sector reported a 1.6 percent increase in productivity.

The numbers are the first concrete indicators that — after a decade-long downturn of drastic proportions — the

Ukrainian economy finally may be poised for expansion.

"Our economy is beginning to show stable tendencies of growth," explained Mr. Yuschenko.

Since his re-election last November President Leonid Kuchma has taken decisive and long-awaited measures to reform the agricultural sector, cut bureaucracy, complete privatization of the state sector and stimulate the private sector.

Another breakthrough for reforms has been the establishment of a parliamentary majority in the Verkhovna Rada, which has begun to move a logjam of economic bills that were frozen by a previously politically uncooperative legislative body.

Adding to the optimism that is increasingly evident in economic circles is a study released on January 25 by the U.S. Agency for International Development and Ukraine's State Committee for Entrepreneurial Development, which shows that the Ukrainian economy has finally developed a critical mass of small and medium-sized businesses — generally considered a necessity before economic growth begins.

The report, based on a stratified random sample of state data and a survey of 10,000 members of households, established that slightly more than 3 million businesses are currently operating in Ukraine. The overwhelming majority of them, some 2.65 million, are small businesses with a single employee, while

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## Ukraine's Cabinet submits new plan for economic development to Parliament

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The Cabinet of Ministers approved a plan for economic development on March 3 that should give impetus to its effort to join the World Trade Organization and eventually find a spot in the European Union.

The program, called "Reforms for Prosperity," is a 105-page, five-part plan developed from the state of the nation address presented by President Leonid Kuchma to the Verkhovna Rada on February 22.

The program's aim is "to increase the economic independence of the citizenry and to promote entrepreneurial activity," said Minister of the Economy Serhii Tyhypko.

If fully carried out, it envisages an eventual 1.3-1.4-fold rise in real incomes for Ukrainians and an annual average increase of 6.5 percent in the country's gross domestic product beginning in 2002. For the fiscal year 2000 it forecasts a GDP increase of 1 to 2 percent.

Mr. Tyhypko said a major obstacle facing the program is the large foreign debt that Ukraine faces. "One of the main risks is the foreign debt. We are talking about its restructuring. If we fail to do that, it will hinder the fulfillment of the government's program," said Mr. Tyhypko.

The government, headed by Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko, has imposed a deadline of March 15 to restructure foreign commercial debt of about \$2.6 billion (U.S.) that it is currently unable to repay.

Without agreement on a debt swap, Ukraine would have to default on many of the commercial loans that it has taken in recent years, which could leave it economically isolated and bankrupt.

Another risk, maintained Mr. Tyhypko, is that the plan, which foresees the liquidation of many privileges enjoyed by government workers, will not find support in the Verkhovna Rada, which must endorse it.

If it does pass political muster, the economy minister said the program would help Ukraine join the World Trade Organization because many of its goals meet WTO requirements for membership. In turn, that would help pave the way for Ukraine to achieve associate membership in the European Union.

Mr. Tyhypko indicated that the program would assure deficit-free budgets, and even surpluses, for Ukraine, which would lead to repayment of wage and debt arrears, a radical reduction in the country's debt load and a stable currency. A longer term goal addressed in the plan is the eventual privatization of land and a resurgence of the agricultural sector.

One specific aspect of the plan announced by Mr. Tyhypko is the elimination of export quotas, which he said hinder the development of Ukraine's foreign trade. Ukraine has received much criticism — mostly from the European Union, which has called for the removal of quotas — for its control over the large domestic sunflower market and its regulations on how

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## Group seizes CPU headquarters

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — As The Weekly was preparing to go to press on March 9 members of a previously unheard of political organization forcibly occupied the headquarters of the Communist Party of Ukraine and presented a list of demands, among them that the government ban all Communist Party activity in Ukraine. The group was threatening to set fire to the building and themselves if their demands were not met.

Calling itself Independent Ukraine, the group released a statement in which, in addition to the abolition of the Communist Party, it demanded barring present and former Communist Party members from positions in government, the withdrawal of Ukraine from the CIS and recognition for former members of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists as World War II veterans.

In its statement the organization cited a historical link to the identically named radical group headed by Mykola Mikhnovsky (1873-1924) in the first decades of the 20th century.

The group, believed to be students, which militia officials said numbers six or seven, but which witnesses said was closer to 11 individuals, including a female, entered the Communist Party headquarters at just after noon.

After overcoming a guard at the entrance, the group occupied offices and demanded that workers leave the building at once. Militia representatives said members of the group were armed with mace

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## A rare success story in the world of trafficking in women

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — There are no completely happy endings to stories about the hellish world of trafficking in women, but the recent rescue of seven young Ukrainian women from a brothel in Montenegro comes about as close to it as is possible.

The story began, as most similar cases do, with a promise of legitimate employment outside Ukraine that turned into a nightmare of forced prostitution. But, unlike most similar cases, it ended relatively quickly with freedom, thanks to a flurry of communications and action on the part of their families, for the women, private voluntary organizations and governments.

The story came to light during an interview with Oksana Horbunova, vice-president of La Strada in Ukraine, who was in Washington in mid-February to attend a conference, Vital Voices Global Exchange, which brought together 15 women activist leaders in various fields

from around the world.

And it was the inter-personal and inter-organizational networks established during earlier Vital Voices meetings that appeared to have played a role in the successful resolution of the case.

As Ms. Horbunova recalled, La Strada in Kyiv received an urgent appeal in January from the mothers of seven students who were supposedly hired to be waitresses during the holiday period in Montenegro but were forced to work as prostitutes in a brothel there.

The organization La Strada (The Street), with offices in a number of East European countries, for the past few years has been in the forefront of combating the spread of trafficking in women from this economically deprived region for sexual and economic exploitation in other parts of the world.

"We couldn't find anyone in Ukraine who would help them," Ms. Horbunova said, "so I contacted the International Human Rights Law Group in Washington, which, in turn, passed our

information to Congressman Christopher Smith (R-N.J.), who chairs the Helsinki Commission (the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe)."

According to Maureen T. Walsh, general counsel at the CSCE, after it was alerted to the situation by the International Human Rights Law Group, the commission faxed an urgent letter to the prime minister of Montenegro, Filip Vujanovic, on Friday, January 14, relaying the detailed information it received from La Strada about the women and their whereabouts. It asked that the Montenegrin government verify this information and take appropriate action to help them.

A few days later the commission received a fax from the prime minister's office, stating that the seven women were found and rescued by Montenegrin authorities that same weekend. They were placed in the care of a non-governmental organization, and on the follow-

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## ANALYSIS

## Kuchma's proposed referendum draws criticism from abroad

by Lily Hyde

RFE/RL Newsline

KYIV – Ukrainians might have an unprecedented chance in April to express both their lack of faith in a split Parliament and their confidence in the newly re-elected president.

A national referendum, called by President Leonid Kuchma last month, is due to ask voters if they agree to express no confidence in the Verkhovna Rada.

If approved by the public, six major changes to the Constitution of Ukraine would strip national deputies of their immunity from prosecution and create a second chamber of the Parliament. Those amendments would also allow the president to dismiss the legislature if a majority is not formed within one month of elections or if a budget is not passed within three months.

Recent opinion polls indicate Ukrainians will approve all six points if the referendum goes ahead.

President Kuchma has said he hopes the proposed changes will end the years-long stalemate between the Parliament and the presidency. But opponents say he is trying to impose rule by Ukraine's oligarchs – a small group of extremely wealthy individuals who are said to use their seats in the Verkhovna Rada and stakes in the media to further their own ends.

Opponents also say that the referen-

Lily Hyde is an RFE/RL correspondent based in Kyiv.

dum would violate the Constitution and would allow the quick passage of far-reaching legislation ostensibly endorsed by the electorate.

Those arguing that the referendum is unconstitutional say that, under the law, the president can call a direct popular vote on constitutional changes only after the Parliament has approved the proposals. The only relevant law, dating back to 1991, says a referendum can be called only by the Verkhovna Rada.

Those concerns have been echoed in a letter sent to President Kuchma by the president of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, Russell Johnston, and in the comments of two assembly rapporteurs who visited Ukraine two weeks ago. At the time, rapporteur Hanne Severinsen told journalists in Kyiv that President Kuchma had not been very sympathetic to their concerns.

"We are very concerned in the Council of Europe what influence this referendum will have for the democracy of Ukraine," she said. "The president of our assembly launched an appeal two weeks ago to your president not to continue with the referendum if it is not in accordance with the ruling of the Venice Commission [the council's chief legal consultative body]. Unfortunately we have got no promise. On the contrary, Mr. Kuchma said he would not follow this advice."

The Council of Europe's Venice Commission is due to issue a report on the referendum at the beginning of April, only

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## What are "free and fair elections"?

by Sarah Martin

RFE/RL Newsline

PRAGUE – For several years, Hrair Balian has been an election observer in former Soviet countries that are new to democracy. Today he heads the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

In that capacity, he is in charge of sending observation missions to monitor elections throughout the 54-state OSCE region. His office produces reports on elections procedures and outcome – in other words, it seeks to determine how free and fair those elections are.

In an interview with RFE/RL, Mr. Balian defined the terms "free" and "fair": "Freedom relates to the freedom of a voter to make a choice on a ballot without any undue pressure from any source. The fairness relates to conditions under which the candidates, political parties are able to compete in an electoral campaign."

But freedom and fairness are only two of seven elements the OSCE examines when it assesses the democratic nature of an election. The organization also evaluates the universality of the vote – who is deemed eligible to cast a ballot and who is not; the transparency of the electoral process; the secrecy of the ballot, and the government's accountability to the electorate.

Mr. Balian says any one of these individual elements can be, and often is vio-

lated. "One of the most common violations – where we are devoting a lot of attention and resources now – is the transparency of an election," he commented. "You can conduct a perfect election on election day. You can give your voters all of the chances they deserve to make a free choice of candidates, parties, etc. And if the process falls apart during the tabulation of the results arriving from the polling stations, then that becomes seriously problematic."

Mr. Balian's office sends both long- and short-term observers to watch the entire election cycle. Ahead of the vote, they look at the registration of voters and candidates and the way the media covers the campaign. On election day they watch the voting, ballot-counting and declaration of results. And, finally, observers monitor the accession to office of the winners.

OSCE monitors observe at least 10 percent of the polling stations in a given country. That means it may send 400 observers to a large country, such as Russia, but only 100 to Croatia.

Mr. Balian says the OSCE does not monitor all countries that have questionable electoral practices – it simply does not have the resources to do that. Instead, the organization looks for countries where it may be able to have a positive impact.

Most recently, these have been the countries that once made up the Soviet Union. There are states moving from a one-party system to multi-party pluralism, which pose a particular kind of problem, according to Mr. Balian.

"In many of the transitional countries, ... (residents) have experienced for the

(Continued on page 18)

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Cabinet approves action program

KYIV – The Cabinet of Ministers on March 3 approved the main points of its action program, which is based on President Leonid Kuchma's annual address to the Parliament delivered last month, Interfax reported. The program – called "The Reforms for Prosperity" – is to be in force throughout the term of the current government. The program foresees a 1.2 percent increase in gross domestic product this year and a 6.5 percent average annual increase in GDP in 2002-2004. The government expects that the planned reforms will result in a 40 percent growth in personal income in Ukraine. The program also pledges to create market mechanisms in the energy sector and diversify energy supplies. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Ukraine to continue borrowing money

KYIV – Minister of the Economy Serhii Tyhypko on March 3 said Ukraine will not stop borrowing money from international financial organizations, Interfax reported. "We need not be afraid of foreign debts – we need to be afraid of budget deficit, inasmuch as its existence practically increases foreign debt," Mr. Tyhypko noted. Commenting on inflation in January and February, which was 8.1 percent, Mr. Tyhypko said that figure was the result of "larger than planned" money supplies at the end of 1999. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Population falls by 400,000 in 1999

KYIV – Ukraine's State Committee on Statistics reported that the population of Ukraine on January 1 totaled 49.71 million, down 394,800 since January 1 of the previous year. There was a difference of 44,800 between migrants out of and into Ukraine, while 350,000 was the difference between those deceased and those born last year. The highest mortality figure was registered in the industrial, coal-mining Donetsk Oblast (79,800 deaths and 30,500 births), while the lowest was in essentially rural western Ukraine: Volyn Oblast (14,700 deaths and 11,800 births), Zakarpattia Oblast (14,400 deaths and 13,900 births) and Rivne Oblast (15,100 deaths and 14,200 births). The number of Ukrainian villages decreased in 1999 by 36 to 28,739. (RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report)

### More than 100,000 minors homeless

KYIV – Yuri Bohutskyi, deputy head of the presidential administration staff, told journalists on February 16 that there are 101,000 homeless minors in Ukraine, constituting 36.3 percent of all homeless people in the country. The data were obtained during special police raids across the country. According to Mr. Bohutskyi, vagrancy and

begging among homeless minors has acquired a "mass character." He added that 14.4 percent of homeless minors are children of pre-school age. Ukraine has 80 orphanages, half of which were set up over the past two years. According to Mr. Bohutskyi, the number of orphanages is insufficient. President Leonid Kuchma recently issued a decree ordering the government to address the problem of homelessness and criminality among minors. In particular, the president instructed the government to open more orphanages and children's homes. (RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report)

### 10,000 criminal cases on tax initiated

KYIV – More than 10,000 tax-related criminal cases were initiated in 1999, Ukrainian radio reported, quoting Viktor Zhvaliuk, vice-chairman of the State Tax Administration. The tax authorities confiscated over 2 billion hrv in 1999. (Eastern Economist)

### Ukraine posts 3.4% growth in January

KYIV – The State Statistics Committee has reported that Ukraine's gross domestic product in January 2000 increased by 3.4 percent, compared with January 1999. Last month's inflation was 4.6 percent. The government predicts that GDP in 2000 will increase by 1 percent, compared with 1999, while inflation will not exceed 15.9 percent. In 1999 Ukraine's GDP fell by 0.4 percent, while inflation reached 19.2 percent. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### 41 countries invited to Peace Shield 2000

KYIV – Forty-one countries have been invited to participate in the Ukraine-U.S. maneuvers known as Peace Shield 2000. Most of the countries invited have already confirmed their participation. The maneuvers, which have been conducted since 1995, will be held July 8-22 this year on the territory of Ukraine, Bulgaria and Estonia. (Eastern Economist)

### NATO urges military reform in Ukraine

KYIV – NATO Secretary-General George Robertson, who participated in the NATO-Ukraine Commission meeting in Kyiv on March 1, has called on Kyiv to speed up military reform. Mr. Robertson pledged that NATO is prepared to help Ukraine reform its defense sector and help retrain military personnel for reintegration into society. "You cannot avoid the pain in army reform," the Associated Press quoted him as saying. Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk told journalists that NATO envoys at the meeting were critical of

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## A rare success story...

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ing day, with train tickets bought by Ukrainian Embassy officials, the seven women were on their way home to Ukraine, Ms. Walsh said.

As Ms. Walsh pointed out, other organizations also were involved in the effort, among them the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw, which was pursuing the matter through its contacts.

The ending, for all concerned, was bittersweet, however. There was an eighth woman from Ukraine, but, sometime before the rescue, she had been resold and spirited out of the country – to Albania, at first, and later, possibly, to Italy.

The Vital Voices conference, which brought Ms. Horbunova and 14 other women activists together February 11-18, was organized by the President's Interagency Council on Women and the Stanley Foundation.

The program included two days of discussions at the Airlie House conference center in Virginia and four days of meetings in Washington – with First Lady Hillary Clinton in the White House, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright at the State Department, members of Congress, and representatives of the World Bank, the Department of Justice, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"It was an opportunity to discuss the problems we face and meet with people who can help us with these problems," Ms. Horbunova said.

The Vital Voices initiative was started in 1997 at a U.S.-organized conference in Vienna which brought together women from Central and Eastern Europe as part of the U.S. government's commitment to improving the status of women in every aspect of life.

Since then, the organization has held three more regional conferences, in Montevideo, Belfast and Reykjavik, as well as roundtables in Palermo, Reykjavik and Istanbul.

Addressing this year's participants at the White House on February 15, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton hailed them for raising their voices against violence and corruption and for economic empowerment, social justice, peace, democracy and progress.

The first lady also noted the many "horror stories" discussed by conference participants from Ukraine, Russia, Cambodia and India about how their women and girls "were being lured away from their countries with the promise of economic opportunity, shipped like drugs by an international crime network, and sold into slavery."

"Others talked about what it's like to be a destination country, home to sweatshops, prostitution rings and domestic bondage that steal the freedom and dignity of women and girls," Mrs. Clinton added.

"What became clear during the dialogue," she said, "was that this is a global problem, that the U.S. and every country has a role to play."

Secretary of State Albright also spoke about the trafficking problem during a discussion at the State Department, noting that the Clinton administration has undertaken "a major diplomatic and law enforcement effort to halt trafficking in women and girls."

"After all," she said, "if we believe in zero tolerance for those who sell illegal drugs, we should feel even more strongly about those who buy and sell human beings."

Melanne Vermeer, the first lady's chief of staff, recalled in an interview that Ms. Horbunova was in a group of Ukrainian women who approached her during the Vienna conference to tell her about the trafficking problem.

"It was that conversation and subsequent conversations with Mrs. Clinton that led to the bilateral agreement between our two countries to tackle this issue," Ms. Vermeer said.

"And Oksana has been in the forefront in really trying to address it at home," she added, pointing out that Ms. Horbunova was having a "real impact" during her meetings in Washington. "She has been in a very key position to explain why our legislation is necessary."

Anti-trafficking bills are currently making their way through the legislative process in Congress. A House bill, HR 3244, a combined version of separate bills introduced earlier last year by Rep. Smith and Rep. Sam Gejdenson (D-Conn.), has already passed the International Relations Committee, but it still needs to go through the Judiciary and Banking committees.

The Senate reportedly also is moving in the direction of combining two existing pieces of legislation into one bill that would coincide with HR 3244.

Following the conference, Ms. Horbunova remained in Washington for a few days for meetings individuals and organizations concerned with the problem of trafficking, including Rep. Smith, and to attend a Senate

Foreign Relations Subcommittee hearing on trafficking February 22.

At the root of the trafficking problem, Ms. Horbunova said in an interview with The Ukrainian Weekly, is the catastrophic state of Ukraine's economy, in which women comprise more than 70 percent of those unemployed.

"And that's why our women eagerly accept these offers of work abroad," she said. Most offers are illegal because Ukraine has agreements about the legal employment of its citizens abroad only with Slovakia, the Czech Republic and the former Soviet republics.

"But our women are offered jobs in Italy, Greece, Turkey, Germany, Holland, Israel and other countries," she added. "Not knowing what's involved, they jump at the chance and end up being sold for large sums of money."

The operation is being run by the mafia, which, in many cases, she said, is in cahoots with the local police. And so far only two countries – Holland and Belgium – have taken concrete steps to help these victims.

Statistics about how many Ukrainian women have fallen victim to this crime are hard to come by, she said, because the victims, when freed, are both ashamed to admit what they experienced and afraid of reprisals from the mafia if they talk.

The victims are not limited to less-educated, naive women, she added, recounting a case of a young woman physician who was lured into this trap by an offer of a care-giving position in Italy.

After the young physician's rescue, Ms. Horbunova asked her if she would be willing to testify against those who had so traumatized her. The young woman physician replied: "I don't want to start anything; all I want is closure, to forget." And she then urged La Strada not to pursue the case because it involved both the Ukrainian and Sicilian mafias.

Every week, she said, about 200 men, women and children are bused to Italy from the former Soviet Union countries, many from Ukraine, to be exploited as



White House Photo

### Oksana Horbunova with Hillary Rodham Clinton.

slave laborers, in the sex industry and in illegal adoption schemes.

Back home, Ms. Horbunova said, people hear mostly only the glowing accounts of high earnings from the lucky ones. They rarely hear the stories about the students in Montenegro or the physician in Italy, she added.

More information about La Strada Ukraine can be obtained at its website: <http://www.brama.com/lastrada>.

## Yuschenko says...

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only 10,851 employ more than 250 people. The numbers are important because, as the study states, "in most countries small and medium-sized businesses account for anywhere from 50 percent to 90 percent of total employment."

And, in contrast to what is generally believed in the West and in official Ukrainian circles, the survey showed that only 11.6 percent of all employment was in the shadow economy.

First Vice Prime Minister Yuri Yekhanurov said the survey results are encouraging because they show the extent to which the transformation to a free market system finally is taking place in Ukraine.

"We saw a whole different picture than what we receive from official sources," said First Vice Prime Minister Yekhanurov.

Without a doubt, the state is still the largest employer and producer of goods and services. It continues to employ some 6.4 million people, of whom 75.6 percent work in large and often bankrupt enterprises. But the large influx of the self-employed into the business sector shows that the average citizen is taking the initiative and not remaining dependent on the state.

On average, the large firms, most of which were or still are state-owned, tend not to pay their workers regularly and barter for resources and sales, while the newer and smaller companies are leaner, pay employees on

time and operate strictly with currency, according to the study.

The government, however, continues to intrude in the marketplace too often, as a large number of state agencies still retain the right to inspect firms and levy fines. Over the years, typical businesses have reported an average of 70 inspections annually. But in the last year that number seems to have dropped precipitously. In the second half of 1999, owners/managers reported receiving only 10.6 inspections. The report explained that this is in part due to a presidential decree delineating how inspectors should proceed, as well as to a change in the approach and strategy used by many regulatory agencies.

### Tax system is biggest problem

Surprisingly, when businesses were asked what major problems they faced, state administrative policing came further down the list than had been expected. The overwhelming reply was that the biggest problem is the existing tax system. In Ukraine, unlike most anywhere else in the world, business is literally taxed to death. A general perception exists among businessmen that if a firm adheres strictly to the tax code and does not seek loopholes it will pay some 110 percent of its profits to taxes.

The survey revealed that the system is particularly burdensome for smaller businesses with a few employees, and reasoned that the largest sector that remains in the gray economy, those with one to five employees,

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## Firms and Employment in Ukraine, 1999

Employment Size	Number of Firms	Employment	Percent of Firms Registered	Unregistered Employment
0	2,651,433	2,651,435	24.6	1,999,180
1-5	148,976	516,947	37.6	322,275
6-10	104,608	850,460	94.1	50,177
11-50	123,757	3,189,226	99.5	15,946
51-250	33,169	4,206,444	99.5	21,032
250+	10,851	9,822,542	99.4	58,935
Total	3,073,244	21,237,054 (52.9 percent of the population age 15 and over)		2,667,545 (11.6 percent of the population age 15 and over)

Table Notes: The numbers for the categories of 0, 1-5, 6-10 and 11-50 size should be added to obtain the total number of small businesses. The numbers for the category of 51-120 employees represent medium-sized businesses. Businesses with 250+ employees are considered to be large businesses. The projected employment data is based on mean employment by size of business based on interviews with registered businesses.

Source: U.S. Agency for International Development and Ukraine's State Committee for Entrepreneurial Development.

## Ukrainian National Women's League of America to mark 75th anniversary

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian National Women's League of America, the foremost organization of Ukrainian women in the United States, and a leading institution in the Ukrainian American community, this year marks the 75th anniversary of its founding.

The jubilee will be celebrated across the country by the organization's regional councils; the goal of the regional councils will be to recall what the UNWLA has done and continues to do for the entire Ukrainian community.

As the first UNWLA regional council was founded in Detroit in 1925, the anniversary celebrations will kick off in the Detroit area on March 18. (See related article on page 6.)

The celebrations will continue as follows: Philadelphia, March 26; northern New York state, April 9; New Jersey, May 21; New York City, June 4; and Ohio, September 21.

Exact dates have yet to be announced for other regions, but the preliminary schedule is for events to take place in Chicago in October, and New England and central New York in November; The anniversary year will culminate with special events in Washington in December.

In most districts the anniversary events will encompass divine liturgies, a traveling exhibit of photographs, documents and publications of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, as well as a display of children's publications.

In addition, the UNWLA plans to publish a history of the organization authored by historian Dr. Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak, author of "Feminists Despite Themselves: Women in Ukrainian Community Life, 1884-1939."

As the UNWLA marks this milestone in its history, its president Iryna Kurowyckyj, and members of the executive committee, Press Chair Jaroslawa P. Rubel and Member-at-Large Irena Steckiv, as well as Iryna Chaban, editor-in-chief of Our Life (Nashe Zhyttia) magazine, emphasized in an interview with The Ukrainian Weekly that the organization is adapting to the current and future needs of its members. They pointed to a new webpage, located at [www.unwla.org](http://www.unwla.org) as one example of the modern-day UNWLA.

As well, the UNWLA leaders pointed out that this long-established women's group whose history includes a long list of achievements is now actively seeking to recruit the next generation of young women as members, encouraging them to use their well-honed professional skills for the good of the Ukrainian community.

Many newcomers to this country from Ukraine also are joining the UNWLA, they pointed out. Boston, for example, has established a new branch composed of members of the Fourth Wave of immigrants. Baltimore, too, is attracting members from among the new arrivals. And, in Philadelphia one branch recently enrolled 40 new members.

Women can join the UNWLA even if there is no branch in their locality, Mrs. Kurowyckyj added, since the organization has made provisions for members-at-large to be active in the organization through contacts with the UNWLA headquarters.

For further information about the Ukrainian National Women's League of America contact the UNWLA headquarters at 108 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003; telephone, (212) 533-4646; fax, (212) 533-5237; or visit the website cited above.



UNWLA activists (from left) Iryna Chaban, Iryna Kurowyckyj, Irena Steckiv and Jaroslawa P. Rubel.

## Ukraine's Cabinet...

(Continued from page 1)

much can be exported.

The government set standards last year after an outcry from then Parliament Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko that Ukrainian-grown sunflower seeds were being sold to foreigners and then processed and returned for sale as oils at prices that undercut Ukraine's domestic production.

Because the economic plan has yet to be released officially, details remain scant. However, as outlined in President Kuchma's February 22 state of the nation address, the program should be extensive and far-reaching and set the country strongly on the path of free trade.

In his annual appearance before the Verkhovna Rada President Kuchma underscored that a keystone of Ukraine's economic policy must be to join the process of globalization that is now occurring around the world.

"We can and must become a new Ukrainian nation, which will synthesize the best traditions of the nation while moving in step with global processes," stated President Kuchma.

For Ukraine to recover its economic losses of the last decade and to position itself at the center of the world economic order, the president declared that a goal be set of annual GDP increases of between 6 percent and 7 percent within five years.

He called for giving entrepreneurs a much freer hand in developing business and on the government to step to the background.

"Our common efforts must be directed in a totally different direction so that economic independence, even at this early

stage, unchains business initiatives to bring forth a vanguard of radical changes and a new generation of people who have the ability to think and act in a modern way, in a market way," President Kuchma underscored.

The president called for the reinvigoration of the Higher Economic Council, a tripartite advisory board that includes members of the executive and legislative branches. He also pointed to the need for extensive administrative reforms and the streamlining of a bureaucracy whose members' average age is far too high.

He called for resolute steps in making the economy more transparent and for the legalization of the shadow economy, as well as the return of Ukrainian capital from abroad.

Although President Kuchma did not go so far as to suggest an amnesty for individuals who have illegally moved capital out of the country, he said that instruments must be developed to allow the return of capital in a legal manner so that it might help resuscitate the Ukrainian economy.

The president said that transparency is badly needed in the privatization process now under way, as well as in the banking system and the energy sector, and would have to be assured for a soon-to-be-developed land market.

"Corruption and crime are today the main causes behind economic hardships and social tension," said Mr. Kuchma. He emphasized that corruption is not a result of the free market, but the outcome of the slow pace, inconsistency and incompleteness of the reform process.

The Cabinet's economic reform plan will go to the Parliament on March 10 and is scheduled for preliminary debate the following week.

## Group seizes...

(Continued from page 1)

and possibly pistols, and carried gas canisters into the building.

Adam Martyniuk, a leading member of the Communist Party and a former first vice-chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament, said that he was sprayed with mace and then ordered to leave the building.

"They are just kids, unfortunately," said Mr. Martyniuk. He added that many of his workers, who are elderly, were manhandled, although no one was beaten.

Soon after CPU workers and officials were evicted, the group hung a 20-meter sign outside the second floor offices that read: "One, united, undivided, free and independent Ukraine from the Carpathian

Mountains to the Caucasus" – phraseology used by Mikhnovsky.

Oleksander Kornienko, head of the Kyiv Office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, said the group had requested a meeting with national deputies to discuss their demands and that National Deputies Hennadii Udovenko and Oleksander Chornovolenko, both members of the National Rukh of Ukraine Party, had met with them before reporting to Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko on the situation.

Mr. Kornienko said that currently the group would be charged only with trespass, illegal occupancy and assault. He said the militia would not consider the use of force to remove the interlopers until all peaceful means of resolution had been exhausted.

# A Ukrainian Summer

Appears May 7 in *The Ukrainian Weekly*

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**THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY**

# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## UNA Scholarship Program helps its student-members

by Oksana Trytjak

UNA Special Projects Coordinator

Do you know that to date the Ukrainian National Association has distributed almost \$2 million in scholarship funds to deserving student-members? This year again, holding to its long-lasting tradition, the UNA will distribute awards and scholarships to qualifying UNA members.

The UNA is proud of our younger generation and is doing its part in recognizing the perseverance and achievements of students. As a parent, you can help the UNA continue its various fraternal benefits, among them the Scholarship Fund. Make your child a UNA member by purchasing an insurance or annuity policy that will benefit them.

Will your children and/or grandchildren qualify for a UNA scholarship when the time comes? To qualify for an award

or scholarship the student-applicant must be a member of the UNA for at least two years.

As a parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle, you can give your children or grandchildren an opportunity to become UNA scholarship recipients, thus joining thousands of previous winners.

For example if the student is 16 years of age, a \$5,000 whole life policy has a monthly premium of \$2.60. This policy provides a cash value in addition to the insurance protection, and qualifies the student for a scholarship at age 18 – at the time the student is ready to enter college. And there are many other insurance options available.

As our children mature we want them to maintain ties to the Ukrainian community. You can facilitate this by enrolling them into the UNA, the largest Ukrainian fraternal association in the United States and Canada.

## Chesapeake State Fraternal Congress announces essay contest for youths

LUTHERVILLE, Md. – The Chesapeake State Fraternal Congress, which unites and serves all fraternal societies in Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia, has announced an essay contest for youth on the topic "What Fraternalism Means to Me."

The contest, which is chaired by Paul Fenchak, an active member of the Ukrainian National Association, is open to all students in grades 6-12 on the territory encompassed by the Chesapeake State Fraternal Congress.

Essays of between 300 and 400 words may cover any aspect of fraternal benefits societies. These may be typed or hand-written (double-spaced). Entrants are asked to include their names, schools (including school address), grades, as well as home addresses and home telephone numbers.

All entries must be postmarked by May 1 and mailed to: Essay Contest, Chesapeake State Fraternal Congress,

407 Towson Ave., Lutherville, MD 21093.

Essays will be judged for content and grammar by a panel of experienced writers and educators. First prize is a \$100 Savings Bond; second prize, a \$75 Savings Bond. Winners will be notified three weeks after the contest deadline and will be invited to attend the annual banquet of the Chesapeake State Fraternal Congress, during which they will be recognized.

This is the third annual essay contest sponsored by the Chesapeake State Fraternal Congress, which is a member of the National Fraternal Congress of America.

Mr. Fenchak noted: "Our fraternal societies have added much to the histories of the areas served by our member fraternalists. Therefore, we feel that our topic would enable many students to find materials to write about in their own backyards."

### Need a back issue?

If you'd like to obtain a back issue of The Ukrainian Weekly, send \$2 per copy (first-class postage included) to: Administration, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

### RECORDING DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP REPORT – DECEMBER 1999

Martha Lysko, National Secretary

	Juvenile	Adult	ADD	Total
Total Active Members – 11/99	7,816	16,747	4,237	28,800
Total Inactive Members – 11/99	7,206	17,449	0	24,655
Total Members – 11/99	15,022	34,196	4,237	53,455

#### ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 12/99				
New members	20	24	0	44
New members UL	2	2	0	4
Reinstated	4	8	2	14
<b>Total Gains:</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>62</b>

Losses in 12/99				
Died	0	40	0	40
Cash surrender	2	17	0	19
Endowment matured	25	40	0	65
Fully paid-up	13	30	0	43
Reduced paid-up	0	0	0	0
Extended Insurance	0	3	0	3
Certificates lapsed (active)	12	11	20	43
Certificate terminated	1	7	10	18
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>231</b>

<b>Total Active Members - 12/99</b>	<b>7,789</b>	<b>16,633</b>	<b>4,209</b>	<b>28,631</b>
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#### INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 12/99				
Paid-up	13	30	0	43
Reduced paid up	0	0	0	0
Extended insurance	0	3	0	3
<b>Total Gains</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46</b>

Losses in 12/99				
* Died	1	32	0	33
* Cash surrender	13	14	0	27
Pure endowment matured	6	4	0	10
Reinstated to active	4	8	0	12
Certificates lapsed (inactive)	1	6	0	7
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>89</b>

<b>Total Inactive Members – 12/99</b>	<b>7,194</b>	<b>17,418</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,612</b>
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<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 12/99</b>	<b>14,983</b>	<b>34,051</b>	<b>4,209</b>	<b>53,243</b>
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(\* Paid up and reduced paid up policies)

## Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- to provide quality financial services and products to its members.

As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.

### SPRING DISTRICT SEMINARS OF UNA BRANCH SECRETARIES, ORGANIZERS AND ANYONE INTERESTED IN SALE OF LIFE INSURANCE SEMINAR WILL BE CONDUCTED BY MARTHA LYSKO, NATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE UNA

DISTRICT	CHAIRMAN	DATE	PLACE	TIME
Connecticut	Ihor Hayda, (203) 531-2090	3/15/00	UNA Home Office, 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054	12:00
Allentown	Anna Haras, (610) 867-4052	3/15/00	UNA Home Office, 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054	12:00
Wilkes-Barre	Taras Butrej, (717) 759-9211	3/15/00	UNA Home Office, 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054	12:00
Shamokin	Joseph Chabon, (570) 874-3084	3/15/00	UNA Home Office, 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054	12:00
Cleveland	Taras Szmagala, (216) 241-6780	3/25/00	Pokrova Church, 6812 Broadview Rd., Parma, OH 44134	1:00
Detroit	Alexander Serafyn, (248) 646-5882	3/26/00	Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan Rd., Room 10, Warren, MI 48091	12:00
Chicago	Stefko Kuropas, (847) 923-7458	4/1/00	St. Volodymyr & Olha Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622	1:00
Toronto	Rev. Myron Stasiw, (416) 531-9945	4/2/00	Protection of The Mother of God, 18 Leeds St., Toronto, ON M6G-1N7	1:00
Albany	Mykola Fil, (518) 785-7596	4/8/00	Soyuzivka, Kerhonkson, NY	1:00
Woonsocket	Leon Hardink, (401) 658-1957	4/8/00	Soyuzivka, Kerhonkson, NY	1:00
Boston	Larissa Dijak, (617) 344-7075	4/8/00	Soyuzivka, Kerhonkson, NY	1:00

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### The UNWLA's 75th anniversary

The year 2000 marks an important milestone in the history of the pre-eminent Ukrainian women's organization in the United States: the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

It is a proud organization with an illustrious history and a promising future.

The UNWLA, also known as Soyuz Ukrainok, was founded in 1925 in New York City by five women's associations whose goal was to create a unified nationwide organization. As noted in its 1999 convention book, the UNWLA's paramount goal was, and is, to preserve Ukrainian identity, culture and heritage within the framework of a humanitarian organization. During its seven and a half decades of existence, the UNWLA has always worked for the benefit of Ukrainian communities in the United States and the diaspora, as well as for fellow Ukrainians in Ukraine.

Soyuz Ukrainok has accomplished its goals both through its own membership and via other organizations in which it is active, whether the Ukrainian World Congress and the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, or the National Council of Women, International Council of Women and the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The UNWLA has cared for the well-being of the younger generation by organizing preschools and day-care centers, and by providing much-needed assistance to orphans. It has helped needy students acquire higher education through its Scholarship-Student Sponsorship Program, which was formally initiated in 1967, although the first scholarship was awarded decades earlier, in 1932. Today that program can boast of having helped more than 800 students in 17 countries, from Poland, Brazil and Argentina, to Romania and Ukraine.

The UNWLA has cared also for the infirm, the elderly, widows and disaster victims. Its first medical fund was instituted in 1930. Victims of the Great Famine in Ukraine, wartime refugees, victims of the Chernobyl nuclear accident and, most recently, residents of flood-ravaged Zakarpattia in western Ukraine all have benefited from the UNWLA's charitable assistance.

Since 1944 the organization has published *Our Life* (Nashe Zhyttia), a magazine that keeps members in touch and informed about the activity of Soyuz Ukrainok. However, its publishing activity also includes histories, compilations of literary works, as well as books on subjects from education to art and the environment. The UNWLA has now set up a website ([www.unwla.org](http://www.unwla.org)) that features information about the organization, including membership, publications, programs, events, etc.

It was the UNWLA that in 1976 founded The Ukrainian Museum in New York. But the organization's activity in this sphere dates back to at least 1926 when it organized the first exhibit of Ukrainian folk arts and crafts in New York City.

Among its current projects, UNWLA leaders point to recently initiated lobbying efforts aimed at persuading the U.S. government to change its immigration and labor laws in order to allow women from Ukraine to legally come to the United States as temporary workers.

This year the UNWLA has launched its "Milk and Buns Project" aimed at helping needy children in Ukraine. The organization has received many letters from Ukraine noting that in some areas of the country children faint from hunger because parents don't have the money to pay for breakfast in school. The UNWLA explains that children are the future of Ukraine and that is why they should be our priority. As usual, Soyuz Ukrainok came up with a concrete way to offer assistance. It has adopted two schools – one in Kharkiv and one in Lviv – as their pilot project. The first to receive assistance will be the neediest children in the earliest grades: first, second and third.

Currently the 75-year-old organization is actively seeking women of the younger generations, as well as recent immigrants, to join its ranks and become active in its myriad programs involving culture, charitable work, education, social welfare, the arts, ecology and more – all worthwhile endeavors deserving of support.

We take our hats off to the UNWLA as it celebrates its jubilee. We wish it "Mnohaya Lita" – many, many more years of fruitful and necessary work for the benefit of our Ukrainian community and the entire Ukrainian nation.

Slava Soyuziankam!

March  
10  
1962

### Turning the pages back...

One of the first major publication efforts sponsored by Ukrainians in North America in the years after the second world war was the publication of the two-volume, English-language *Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia*.

On March 10, 1962, *The Ukrainian Weekly* ran the first announcement about the pending publication of the encyclopedia. Published by the University of Toronto for the Ukrainian National Association, the volumes were also sponsored by the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

The encyclopedia's editor-in-chief was Prof. Volodymyr Kubijovic and the original managing editor of the project was Luke Myshuha, *Svoboda's* editor-in-chief, and later, *Svoboda* Editor-in-Chief Anthony Dragan. Among the principal editors were Profs. George Shevelov and Clarence Manning of Columbia University, as well as Zenon Kuzela, George S.N. Luckyj and Alexander Ohloblyn.

The two-volume encyclopedia was a revised and updated edition of a three-volume Ukrainian-language encyclopedia that had been published in 1949 in Paris. The first volume of the *Concise Encyclopedia*, at 1,200 pages, was described by the University of Toronto Press as being destined to be "one of the major reference books of the 20th century" about Ukraine.

The first print run included 5,000 copies, and the first volume sold for a pre-publication price of \$30 in 1962.

Source: "University of Toronto Announces Publication of Ukrainian Encyclopedia," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 10, 1962.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### UNWLA Detroit Regional Council marks 75th jubilee by recalling accomplishments

by Larissa Wytwycky Ghiso  
and Lydia Kachan Jachnycky

Imagine waking up one night and hearing the rumbling of tanks, artillery fire and bomb explosions in the distance and realizing that the terrifying sounds are getting closer and closer. Imagine packing a few essentials that will fit into one or two small suitcases and setting off into the unknown – always heading westward. After wandering for months and years through Europe, if you were one of the very lucky ones, you find your way across the ocean to "the land of the free and the brave" – America.

You realize that you are faced with tremendous opportunities and with incredible challenges: a new language, new and unknown customs and traditions, and different people and expectations. Your natural instinct is to seek out others of your own kind for help, support, and encouragement.

Many of the members of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) have lived through just such an experience and have dedicated themselves to the common goal of uniting women of Ukrainian descent in order to preserve their ethnic identity, culture, and heritage within the framework of humanitarian outreach. Its activities have focused on charitable, educational and cultural endeavors.

Historically, the Detroit Regional Council of the UNWLA maintained strong links to the homeland while simultaneously searching for connections to the American world. Members disseminated information about Ukraine, its geography, history and culture.

The UNWLA established the first Medical Fund in 1930, which soon was expanded to aid the famine victims in Ukraine in 1933. During World War II aid was given to orphans, widows, the elderly and infirm.

The Detroit Regional Council created a Ukrainian chapter of the American Red Cross and aided in the rescue of Displaced Persons (DPs) from forcible repatriation to the USSR. In cooperation with the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, assistance was provided to Ukrainian immigrants from Germany. Some members sponsored DPs and helped them settle in America.

With the new wave of immigration after World War II, the UNWLA was witness to a variety of activities in Detroit, including the publication of "Ukrainian Womanhood in Detroit," organization of a conference on education and social welfare, and an intense membership drive.

Members participated in local demonstrations and protests in 1955 when the Soviets ruthlessly used tanks to kill 500 Ukrainian women prisoners in a forced labor camp in Kinghir.

They also participated in a demonstration in 1983 commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Great Famine-Genocide in which millions of people perished of forced starvation under Communist domination.

The Detroit Regional Council's activities in the humanitarian and charitable endeavors have also included aid to the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear explosion with medical equipment, food, vitamins, clothing and other necessities. Hundreds of children were sent to health centers in Ukraine for treatment. The Regional Council's Social Welfare Committee also assumed sponsorship of two orphanages and a children's

Larissa Wytwycky Ghiso and Lydia Kachan Jachnycky are UNWLA activists in the Detroit area.

hospital in Dnipropetrovsk.

Since November 1994 many parcels of clothing, vitamins and books have been dispatched to these institutions.

During the 1970s, members gave assistance to political dissidents by sending small packages, mailing cards and letters to offer moral support, and publicizing their plight. Many years later, when members met some of these dissidents, they found out what an incredible event it had been for them to receive a card or letter from far-distant America while imprisoned in the cold reaches of Siberia under the most inhumane conditions.

In the fall of 1998, the Detroit Regional Council sent 90 packages to aid the victims of severe flooding in the Zakarpattia region Ukraine. The members have also become involved in the issue of trafficking of women and have actively lobbied both local and federal representatives to pass legislation regarding this barbaric and inhumane practice of exploiting women.

On the educational front, the UNWLA has organized pre-schools and day-care centers, sponsored and awarded scholarships since 1932, and provided student sponsorship programs to Ukrainians in Poland, Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Eastern Europe and newly independent Ukraine. Ukrainian schools have been provided with much needed textbooks and financial aid.

"Ukrainian Awareness Days" were also sponsored in local public schools. Numerous arts and craft exhibits, plays, dramatic readings and competitions were held in conjunction with the "Year of the Child" in 1979.

The UNWLA co-sponsored leadership conferences along with Wayne State University, the University of Michigan and prominent women's organizations through the years. Recently, a highly successful "Ukrainian Women's Retreat" was held in June 1997 at the Dibrova Estate in Brighton, Mich. The Detroit Regional Council was also a significant contributor in the establishment of the Ukrainian Village, a senior citizens' retirement home in Warren.

Throughout its history, the UNWLA has participated in countless and varied cultural events. Ukraine's Millennium of Christianity was celebrated in 1988 and included an exhibit of Ukrainian icons at the Renaissance Center. A display of *Our Lady of Pochaiv* was presented at the event, which was memorialized in a Commemorative Millennium Book.

Public lectures on Ukrainian poets, artists and authors have been presented. Dr. Roman Szporluk, a renowned historian and Harvard University professor, lectured on Ukrainian history. The Regional Council has also welcomed visitors from Ukraine, including outstanding authors, poets, playwrights, artists, community activists and dissidents.

Members sponsored exhibits at the International Institute's Hall of Nations and actively supported the institute by purchasing showcases for exhibits of national art, donating two complete national costumes and providing financial support for its building project. The Regional Council also prepared a biennial Christmas Heritage Exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum and displays at the Detroit Summer Ethnic Festivals, St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church Sunflower Festival in Warren, and the International Festival in Sterling Heights, Mich. Members also sponsored demonstrations and courses in making

(Continued on page 14)

## NEWS AND VIEWS

## FDR's legacy, liberalism and 'bit players': a response to column by Myron Kuropas

by Alexander B. Kuzma

In his column "Time Misses Again," Dr. Myron Kuropas makes a compelling case for the triumph of capitalism as the pivotal drama of the 20th century. Now that capitalism has triumphed, Dr. Kuropas suggests that "tired and outdated liberalism" can be relegated to the "dustbin of history." Some of us believe that capitalism would never have triumphed had it not been significantly tempered by the democratic values and the humanizing influence of Christian reformers, labor unions, environmentalists, consumer advocates and secular social critics who have helped to form the bedrock of American liberal thought.

Right-wing ideologues are quick to forget that in its original, primitive form, capitalism was a brutish and inhumane system that bore little resemblance to the flourishing economy we enjoy today. In the early part of the 20th century, the captains of industry felt it was their inalienable right to create sweat shops, to send children into coal mines and to extract the last ounce of productivity from employees for negligible rewards. Government, police and business worked together to crush all attempts by laborers to organize themselves, to demand decent wages and healthy working conditions. With the support of the federal courts and draconian economic doctrines, America's industrial elite showed little tolerance for the aspirations of ordinary working people, immigrants, blacks, or women. It was only following the collapse of the stock market and during the Depression of the 1930s that America was forced to come to terms with the desperate plight of ordinary citizens.

It is easy to underestimate the importance of social reforms that today we take for granted. Now that we reap the benefits of their struggle for equality and justice, it is easy to caricature the labor movement that was a lifeline for many Ukrainian Americans struggling to make a decent life for their families in the harsh years prior to World War II.

We forget that at one time the basic concepts of Social Security and collective bargaining were reviled as socialist anathema. Had this narrow vision of capitalism remained intact, it is doubtful that the marvels of the latter half of the 20th century could have ever come to fruition. America would never have unleashed its creative potential if workers had been "kept in their place." By creating a more assertive, affluent workforce, by distributing wealth through better wages and working conditions, America created new markets for goods that were once affordable for only a privileged few. By energizing consumers, environmentalists and minorities, America instilled an ethos of

*Alexander B. Kuzma, an attorney, is the director of development for the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund in Short Hills, N.J.*

**The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.**

social responsibility and created a demand for products and industrial processes that were safer, healthier and generated higher quality goods. This has resulted in a society that is not only more humane but more rational than one guided by mindless and unadulterated greed.

Dr. Kuropas is right to condemn Franklin Delano Roosevelt for his complicity in Soviet expansionism, for his moral cowardice at Yalta and Teheran, for his failure to challenge Stalin on the Terror Famine in Ukraine. However, many historians are firmly convinced that FDR played a critical role in saving the United States from Communism by implementing social and economic reforms that were essential for the long-term survival of free enterprise in his time. Roosevelt robbed the Communists of their most potent rallying cries. He persuaded Congress and the federal courts to institute policies that protected the common man against exploitation and catastrophic economic cycles. For all his hubris, his flaws and sins, FDR brought new meaning to Lincoln's commitments to create a government "of the people, by the people and for the people." His policies enriched our government's role in protecting the "least among us." FDR redefined the terms "commonwealth" and "public trust," and America is a much stronger nation for it.

In his commentary on Time magazine's nominations for "Man of the Century," Dr. Kuropas gives too short a shrift to other major figures who do not fit neatly into any convenient stereotypes as creatures of either the right or left.

With more than a hint of contempt, Dr. Kuropas dismisses Mahatma Gandhi, Lech Walesa, Martian Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela as "bit players" on the century's screen. He argues that their triumphs were achieved in relatively "safe vineyards" governed by the rule of law. This ignores the fact that Gandhi and King were both assassinated, that Mandela spent over 25 years in prison, and most of these in solitary confinement. We forget that apartheid in South Africa and in the United States gave a white man the right to murder a black man with almost complete impunity.

For all its horrors, the 20th century also helped inaugurate a new form of non-violent resistance by which the oppressor's brutality is exposed for what it is, where publicity and moral suasion and cognitive dissonance replace terror and guerrilla warfare as a powerful weapon in the struggle for freedom. Gandhi and King and the authors of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights helped to create a conceptual framework that captured the imagination of a whole generation of Ukrainian dissidents, inspiring them to resist evil and to defy insurmountable obstacles. One can dismiss the importance of their contribution by echoing Stalin's cynical question "How many armored divisions does the Pope command?" Yet Pope John Paul II himself has turned this sarcasm on its head by showing the limits of military might and the virtually limitless potential of human integrity, defiance, faith and non-violent witness to the truth.

Dr. Kuropas has every right to question the impact of Gandhi's and King's teachings on human conduct. Certainly, war and oppression of the weak by the strong are still the dominant form of resolving conflict. At the same time, the 20th century was the first century in which non-violent struggle and unarmed dissent actually succeeded in toppling empires and overthrowing brutal patterns

(Continued on page 14)

## PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



## Ukraine's bumpy road to democracy

Two years ago, it took the Ukrainian Parliament 20 ballots and many days to elect Oleksander Tkachenko as a compromise chairman. Earlier this year, when Mr. Tkachenko lost the support of the majority, it took two and a half weeks and an unseemly scuffle on the Verkhovna Rada floor before he finally bowed to reality and gave up his position. This can be viewed as political theater, yet another sign of Ukraine's inability to function as a normal democracy, or it can be seen as something far more profound.

For Ukraine, the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 was a revolution that toppled a system of boundless evil. It's impossible to quantify the physical, moral and economic damage Communism inflicted on Ukraine. Just take the Great Famine: privately, The New York Times correspondent in Moscow in 1932-1933 estimated that 10 million Ukrainians were killed in Stalin's collectivization campaign. Ukrainian agriculture has been crippled ever since. What is worse, Soviet terror with its vast network of informers imposed total control over society, stifling every sign of initiative and creativity. To survive, people became complacent, cautious and cynical. Those with power were arrogant and rude. That was reality in Soviet Ukraine and that was the social-political structure the Ukrainian Revolution was supposed to depose.

It was a strange revolution, though, more symbolic, it seemed, than substantive. No one lost his life; in fact, no one even lost a job. The hammer and sickle came down and the Ukrainian trident was put in its place. Nothing else seemed to change. The same managers who ran the factories and collective farms for the Soviets ran them in the new Ukrainian state and showed no intention of giving up control.

Unfortunately, these collective farms and government-controlled industries are also the reason for Ukraine's economic malaise. Without terror to glue it all together, the whole Soviet system collapsed during Gorbachev's "glasnost" era. And there's been nothing to replace it. People show initiative only to steal, solicit bribes or emigrate to the West. With Ukraine sunk in economic depression, every rational economist offers the same advice: eliminate the collective farm system, privatize the economy, develop an entrepreneurial class, open Ukraine to outside investment.

To Mr. Tkachenko this advice is pure poison. Formerly minister of agriculture in Soviet Ukraine, he believes in the collective farm system and opposes private property. Agriculture, he knows, is the basis of whatever wealth and power Ukraine has, and he was determined to control it. Money, jobs, Mercedes and dachas are at stake. As long as the collective farm system remains intact, Mr. Tkachenko and his constituency remain intact. As Rada chairman, he had the power to block reform and he did. A Communist to the end, his last act as chairman was to ignore a motion on his own dismissal. Hence the stand-off that followed.

As events show, however, the 1991 revolution where nothing seemed to change, turned out to be a revolution after all. Ukraine's course has not been

straight or smooth and there are plenty of grave concerns, but for those who see geopolitical or merely sentimental value in an independent Ukraine, there's been a lot of progress. Learning from the mistakes of the ill-fated Ukrainian Central Rada government of 1918, President Leonid Kravchuk co-opted the Red Army in Ukraine and created one that is loyal to Kyiv, not Moscow. Then, under the leadership of central banker, now prime minister, Viktor Yushchenko, Ukraine created the basis for economic growth by establishing and maintaining a responsible monetary policy.

Most significantly, Ukraine shows no signs of the kind of conflict that is convulsing the Balkans and Russia: no ethnic cleansing, no shelling of the Parliament building, no invasions of troubled provinces. Ukraine's diverse and polyglot society has shown remarkable tolerance for one another. The bottom line difference for Ukraine is the country is now a democracy and all its hopes and opportunities flow from that.

Democracy, though, is a messy process and change takes time. There's no better illustration of that than the history of the United States. The American Revolution began in 1776. Twenty years later, President George Washington – having once led America's military against the British Empire – sent troops against his own citizens to collect a tax on whiskey. A few years later, in 1801 – a full generation after the Declaration of Independence – the United States endured a constitutional crisis, similar in a way to the one Ukraine just went through in the Rada. That's when vice-presidential candidate Aaron Burr took advantage of a quirk in the Electoral College rules and received the same number of votes for president as Thomas Jefferson, even though Jefferson had clearly been his party's candidate. The struggle was decided after 36 ballots and a week of political wrangling when Alexander Hamilton – America's first treasury secretary – tipped the balance in Jefferson's favor. Aaron Burr is now remembered mostly for killing Alexander Hamilton in a duel. Jefferson, one of America's greatest presidents, became the first to use a political party to exercise control over the Congress.

It appears that President Leonid Kuchma is trying to do the same thing in his own country. In his re-election campaign last year, Mr. Kuchma made it clear he would work to adopt a reform package that would be acceptable to the IMF. He also promised to integrate Ukraine into Europe while maintaining good ties with Moscow. Mr. Kuchma's opponent blamed the IMF for Ukraine's problems and promised to restore Communism. Mr. Kuchma won comfortably and began to implement his promises. To do that, he needs a Rada majority he can work with and that's what the struggle in January was all about. Former president and now National Deputy Leonid Kravchuk helped put together a center-right coalition to oust Mr. Tkachenko. Power shifted and feelings were hurt, but no blood was shed. President Kuchma, though, couldn't resist the temptation to rub it in. "I would give 10 Communists now for a capitalist

(Continued on page 17)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ODVU leader responds to column

Dear Editor:

The February 6 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly, published the second in a series of provocations by the former chairman of the Young Ukrainian Nationalists (MUN) and the former vice-chairman (1970-1972) of the Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine (ODVU), Myron Kuropas, son of one of the pioneering founders of ODVU, against the chairman of the provid (leadership) of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and former president of the Ukrainian National Republic, Mykola Plawiuk.

The membership of ODVU in the United States and of the Ukrainian National Federation (UNO) in Canada are surprised and astonished that the English-language organ of the Ukrainian National Association, whose members include Ukrainians of various political ideologies and thoughts, would include such a provocative article.

In his column titled "OUN from Konovalts to Plawiuk," in addition to the indignant attack on Mr. Plawiuk, Dr. Kuropas demonstrates a true lack of knowledge of the history of the OUN. Dr. Kuropas equates the ideological programmatic positions of the OUN with the ideas of Dmytro Dontsov and the "fashionable radical movements in Europe," when, in fact, the ideologues of the OUN were Yulian Vassian, Mykola Stsiborsky, Dmytro Andrievsky, Osip Boidunyk, et al., who equated the ideological political positions of the OUN with the ethos, or spiritual and historical foundations of the Ukrainian nation, and who never recognized or avowed the principles of "He who is not with us is against us" or that "terror is the modus operandi."

Alluding to the historical establishment of the OUN during its founding congress in Vienna in 1929, and to the journeys of Col. Yevhen Konovalts to the United States and Canada with the aim of creating a "far-reaching network" of moral and material support for the actions of the OUN in various countries, Dr. Kuropas alleges that they occurred in 1930, when in fact these trips took place in 1929, four months after the Vienna Congress of OUN. The aim of these trips was the creation and preparation of the organizational structure of a nationalist movement in these countries.

The columnist further incorrectly relates the course of events that led to the OUN split. He writes that after the assassination of Col. Konovalts in 1938, his very close associate, Col. Andrii Melnyk, became his successor during a special congress in Rome, which the author alludes was held in 1939. Furthermore, ignoring certain events in Poland, the columnist writes that a younger and more militant group within the OUN, under the leadership of Stepan Bandera, gathered in Krakow and founded a second OUN. And, he writes, that a struggle for control of the nationalist movement between the Melnykites and Banderites then ensued.

In fact, it was during this very time, immediately after the assassination of Col. Konovalts, that Col. Melnyk became chairman of the provid of the OUN, known by the acronym PUN (Provid Ukrainskikh Nationalistiv). Roman Shukhevych, later to become the legendary leader of UPA, delivered to Col. Melnyk a petition or request from PUN that he, Col. Melnyk, assume the responsibilities of the PUN chairman, and then in August 1941 Col. Melnyk was elected and affirmed as chairman during the second Supreme Convention of Ukrainian Nationalists (VZUN) in Rome, which was attended by delegates from ODVU and UNO.

It was not until 1940, not 1939 as the

columnist implies, that despite the many efforts, pleadings and steps taken by Col. Melnyk to preserve unity within the ranks of the OUN that the split occurred. Dr. Kuropas summarizes these facts as follows: "in Poland, meanwhile, a younger more militant group of OUN established a second OUN led by Stepan Bandera." Dr. Kuropas does not provide or mention the actual names of this group that split off from OUN. At the time the group called itself OUN-SD (Samostini Derzhavnyky), again later changed its name to OUN-R (Revolutionary). The name has now been changed again by Slava Stesko to KUN - Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists. The terms OUN-M and OUN-B were never official, but were commonly used terms.

Dr. Kuropas further incorrectly presents the facts regarding the successors to Col. Melnyk, who died in 1964. The successor to Col. Melnyk was the tireless researcher of the processes and changes taking place in the USSR and Ukraine, Oleh Shtul Zhdanovych, who died November 4, 1977, and not 1978 as stated by Dr. Kuropas. Dr. Kuropas completely omits the fact that upon the death of Shtul Zhdanovych Denys Kwitkowsky assumed the chairmanship of PUN until his death on March 15, 1979. It was only then, upon the death of Mr. Kwitkowsky, that Mr. Plawiuk assumed the position of chairman, which was again reaffirmed during 10th VZUN.

Let's return to the events following World War II and the arrival of the military groups within OUN, which created the so-called networks and influences within UNO in Canada. It is precisely at this point that the attacks begin on Mr. Plawiuk, who, having become the chairman of the provid of OUN, began instituting his own order. Dr. Kuropas writes: "Venerable UNO leaders such as Wolodymyr Kossar and Paul Yuzyk (later senator) were eased out of the organization." In truth, both of these venerable and respected UNO activists had their own ideas and concepts regarding the new "immigrants," and they of their own accord withdrew from any active participation in UNO. Mr. Kossar was replaced by Vasyl Hultaj, not by Mr. Plawiuk, a fact misrepresented by Dr. Kuropas.

With the rise of the Ukrainian republic and free government, the chairman of PUN and former president of the UNR-in-exile pursued the requisite resolutions. The last VZUN taking place in the diaspora decided to relocate the headquarters of PUN to Kyiv, and the last session of the governing body of UNR decided to transfer the powers of UNR-in-exile to the government of Ukraine in Kyiv. From then on, and under new accords, began the most demanding and responsible efforts of the PUN chairman.

Having transferred the power of the UNR-in-exile during a special session of the Ukrainian Parliament in Kyiv, the leadership of the OUN began the task of expanding the work and activities of the organization in Ukraine; establishing branches of the OUN in every oblast; initiating the preparation and printing of The Ukrainian Word, the press organ of the OUN; creating and establishing a women's organization named after Olena Teliha; founding youth organizations like Smoloskyp and student organizations like Zarevo. These great efforts and hard work have resulted in making the OUN a viable factor and important participant in the rebirth and re-establishment of spiritual and nationalist life in Ukraine.

Highlighting the aspirations of KUN in Ukraine and of Mrs. Stesko in the Parliament together with their known goals, Dr. Kuropas sarcastically emphasizes that Mr. Plawiuk "remains a penumbra." However, Dr. Kuropas need not be concerned because the positions of the OUN are represented at the forum of the

Parliament by adherents and sympathizers. The appropriate and suitable efforts of the OUN headed by Mr. Plawiuk continues to provide the proper course of action to consolidation and unification of the nationalist movement, signs of which include the fact that the OUN was joined by Yurii Shukhevych, the son of UPA Commander Taras Chuprynka, the groups of UVO named after Mr. Konovalts, and other groups of the OUN in Ukraine as associate members of the OUN.

Several representatives of the younger generation have traveled to, or rather have returned, to Ukraine - for example the former members of MUN, including their former leader Dr. Kuropas who ascribe defamatory or libelous remarks towards Mr. Plawiuk. By writing these types of defamatory commentaries and by attempting to diminish the authority and position of the chairman of PUN and the former president of the UNR-in-exile, who is working very diligently and under very difficult circumstances and environs for the rebirth and renewal of our homeland, Dr. Kuropas has earned condemnation.

We firmly believe and sincerely hope that the editorial board of The Ukrainian Weekly will find much better use for the precious limited printed word in its newspaper than irresponsible defamatory attacks upon Ukrainian leaders, who continue to work in difficult situations for the betterment and rebirth of the spiritual life and nationalist revival in Ukraine.

Alexander Prociuk  
Philadelphia

The letter writer is president of the Central Committee of the Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine (ODVU).

About the OUN-M and the OUN-B

Dear Editor:

Dr. Myron Kuropas in the article "OUN from Konovalts to Plawiuk" (February 6) discusses some of the history of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and effects of this organization on the Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine (ODVU) in the United States of America and the Ukrainian National Federation (UNO) in Canada. At this time, when Banderites (OUN-B), Melnykites (OUN-M), and some other factions of the OUN claim to have a democratic nature, Dr. Kuropas' description of the OUN as an integral nationalistic and authoritarian organization deserves praise and recognition by Ukrainian democrats.

His description of this Galician organization that terrorized Poles and Ukrainians who did not agree with their dogmas and aims is similar to that given by outstanding historian Ivan Lysiak-Rudnytsky in the Encyclopedia of Ukraine (Vol. 3, pages 552-555). In his discussion of integral nationalism Dr. Lysiak-Rudnytsky states that "Ukrainian integral nationalism resembled a totalitarian movement. The all-encompassing character of the movement was reflected in the complete and unqualified submission of its followers to nationalist ideology and organizational discipline ... Nationalists also sought to extend their influence over the Ukrainian institutions and organizations outside the USSR - in effect, to bring all community activity under the control of their movement. They were ill disposed to other political parties, camps and centers, and their occasional cooperation or agreements with them were commonly tactical in nature."

Since it is in the nature of the OUN

(Continued on page 9)

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Proposed Agenda:

1. Opening remarks
2. Verification of minutes of the previous Annual Meeting
3. Reports:
  - Financial Management
  - Credit Committee
  - Supervisory Committee
4. Discussion
5. Election of 3 members to the Board of Directors
6. New business
7. Adjournment

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*Members are requested to bring their regular share payments*

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Meyers, Eugene; Iwaszkiv, Oksana; Dan and Deborah Nijelgaten. Nominations for the position on the Board can be forwarded to:*

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New York, NY 10093

**Attn: Nominating Committee**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### About the OUN-M...

(Continued from page 8)

movement to take over or to control, by various manipulations, other Ukrainian organizations, Dr. Kuropas should not be surprised that more aggressive nationalists of OUN-M took control of less aggressive nationalists of the ODUV and UNO organizations. Therefore, blaming Mykola Plawiuk for taking over control of the UNO in Canada and making organizational and personnel changes in this organization seems to be unjustified. The well-known leaders of the UNO such as Wolodymyr Kossar, Paul Yuzyk, M. Pohoretsky, W. Topolnycky and others did not publicly object to the undesired changes in UNO and continued to be loyal and supporting members of this organization. Actually, as I have observed, UNO leaders were happy, in fact, to get "new blood" into their organization with nationalistically minded immigrants from Europe. I think that the reason for domination of UNO by newly-arrived members of the OUN should be attributed to the passivity and unjustified expectations of the UNO leaders who dreamed about a unified organization of Ukrainian nationalists.

I can understand Dr. Kuropas' disappointment about the failures of OUN-M to live up to his expectations but I cannot agree with his assessment of the comparative achievements of OUN-M and OUN-B. In particular, Dr. Kuropas lists and praises the achievements of the OUN-B and especially one of its leaders Slava Stetsko, but criticizes OUN-M for inactivity and weakness. He writes "While the OUN-M is barely breathing in North America, the OUN-B has captured the leadership of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Ukrainian World Congress. Like them or not, the OUN-B leadership has earned our respect."

It is difficult to understand how a knowledgeable politician and historical writer of the stature of Dr. Kuropas could call on the Ukrainian community to respect OUN-B, an extremely nationalistic organization that since its split from OUN-M has caused the continuous chaos in Ukrainian political life. It did not participate in the organized structures of the Ukrainian community unless cooperation promoted the aims of OUN-B.

OUN-B, for example, did not participate in the formation of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) but took it over by force after Taras Borovets and OUN-M formed the first UPA units in the spring of 1942 (Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Vol. 5, page 392). OUN-B persistently tried to destroy the Ukrainian National Council, a parliamentary organization of all Ukrainian parties and organizations that united in support of the renewal of a democratic Ukrainian state and support for the government-in-exile of the Ukrainian National Republic (UNR). This government existed from 1948 to 1992 after which Mr. Plawiuk, the last president of UNR, transferred the mandate and insignia of the once-independent Ukrainian state to President Leonid Kravchuk of the newly elected government of a democratic Ukraine. I can only praise and approve of the constructive role Mr. Plawiuk and OUN-M played in the formation and activity of the Ukrainian National Council.

About 30 years ago OUN-B deceitfully took over the control of Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and by this action they split Ukrainian organizations in the United States into democratic and OUN-B controlled groups. Continuous negotiation between representatives of these groups did not lead to the agreement and formation of one representative body in the United States because OUN-B is inca-

pable of cooperating and compromising for the common good of the Ukrainian community. Contrary to these shameful activities of extreme nationalists, OUN-M by working with other parties of the diaspora, demonstrated that it abandoned the previous tenets of nationalistic exclusivity and could be a helpful force in the building of the Ukrainian state and our life in the American diaspora.

No, I cannot respect the achievements of OUN-B, because they were obtained by terrorism or devious means. I am also happy to learn from Dr. Kuropas' article that there are young Canadians that want to rejuvenate the UNO and revitalize the principles on which this organization was built by their fathers. I wish them good luck.

Ivan Kochan, Ph.D.  
Grass Valley, Calif.

### FDR bashing and the truth

Dear Editor:

I would like to reply to Leo Iwaskiw's letter, "FDR Gave Stalin Half of Europe" (February 20). My comment is that repeating the same thing many times does not make it true.

As if to prove his contention, Mr. Iwaskiw points to a plethora of evidence about Soviet agents in Franklin Roosevelt's administration. But no connection was shown between these agents and the subject matter – the supposed "give-away" of Europe.

Also, you will not find any such showing in the old and in "the recently published" sources. None of the rehash is actionable upon careful scrutiny.

However, it is indisputable that at no time during World War II did the Allies have physical control of Eastern Europe. Franklin D. Roosevelt could not possibly give away something that he did not have, much less in the face of de facto Soviet power to seize it.

As for agents and spies, there was a harvest of them on all sides. For instance, Soviet agents were placed at the heart of the German Supreme Command (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht) as well as at the Army High Command (Oberkommando der Heere). Less is known about American spies.

In other writings, armchair strategists theorized that FDR could have cut a deal with Germany to pre-empt a Soviet advance. But FDR, of course, was quite aware of Stalin's own prowess at double-dealing, and would not put at risk the Anglo-American forces in France and Italy by inadvertently bringing on a re-run of the 1939 Soviet-German pact. FDR's lack of enthusiasm for wading onto slippery turf has been cited by some as equivalent to a sellout of Eastern Europe. Others loved it as a figure of speech for demagoguery.

Despite the life-threatening heart disease from which he suffered in the last year of his life, FDR was not the enfeebled dreamer pictured by his detractors. He had the right sense to press for the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany. Any American president, Democrat or Republican, almost certainly would have made the same decision.

The root cause of FDR bashing by right-wing crusaders has little to do with his foreign policy. It is seeded entirely in the myopia toward his New Deal legacy. This ire has also been the prime stimulant used to muddy the waters and exploit the sentiments and the vote of folks of East European background.

Boris Danik  
North Caldwell, N.J.

### Thanks to Weekly for its fine work

Dear Editor:

Thomson newspapers, a chain of 50 U.S. newspapers and five Canadian dailies was recently put up for sale. The company feels the newspapers are no longer profitable, the emphasis will be put on the electronic media.

The Hearst corporation's flagship, the 112-year-old San Francisco Examiner is likely to close. On the block since August, no one has an interest in buying it.

These days, when stories like the above appear in the news it is quite common to blame the electronic media for the demise of newspapers. I believe quite the contrary: it is poor journalism and the editorializing of the news in the print media that is fueling the growth of the electronic media. In the electronic media, especially on the Internet, people can scan many sources quickly, hoping to find the truth. Once the "large press" became more interested in social commentary than in performing the nearly sacred tasks of the fourth estate, they doomed themselves.

Thankfully, you folks at The Weekly have continued to produce an excellent newspaper. Your newsbriefs are excellent, factual and to the point. Roman Woronowycz's reports from Kyiv are also excellent and I find them in good agreement with other sources I follow. Those of you who work at The Ukrainian Weekly in the United States are also doing a great job.

My special appreciation also goes to Myron Kuropas. He has the courage to tackle very difficult issues. Dr. Kuropas, I know you take a lot of guff over some of your columns, but please keep up the good work. We need the information you possess to help us make decisions. You may be called names, but your facts are irrefutable.

I have been reading The Ukrainian Weekly cover to cover now for six years – every week except those happy weeks when I am in Ukraine.

The printed word is not out of style, nor will it be in the near future. You are the glue that holds together the Ukrainian community in America. The community is spread over such vast distances that the Churches and fraternal organizations could not bind it together. It takes The Weekly and the Ukrainian language Svoboda to do that. Many of us will not turn to the electronic media. Please keep up the good work continue to keep us focused on Ukraine, and moving forward with that feeling of unity and that we are one community.

Thanks again to all of you at The Weekly for the fine job you have done for so many years.

Walter Wess  
Manahawkin, N.J.

### More on French philatelic society

Dear Editor:

In his January 2 profile of the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society and its various chapters, Inger Kuzych makes reference to a new UPNS chapter in Paris.

We wish to inform your readers that the newly organized French society for the study and research of Ukrainian postal history, the Société Franco-Ukrainienne de Philatelie (SFUP) is not a chapter of the UPNS nor its affiliate. The SFUP (formerly known as Cercle Philatélique St. Wladimir) is, however, affiliated with the French Association Philatélique.

More information on the SFUP may be obtained by writing to me at: 2339 Thomas St., Chicago, IL 60622, or to André Bisotto, SFUP, 6 rue de Palestine, 75019 Paris, France. (When writing to the address in France, letters should be written in either French or Ukrainian.)

Robert O. Pauk  
Chicago

The writer is the U.S. liaison for the SFUP.



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## Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

Ukraine's record on reforming the armed forces, but he added that the tone of the discussions was positive, according to Reuters. The two sides also discussed the use of the Yavoriv military range (Lviv Oblast) to train international peacekeeping forces. Mr. Robertson said Ukraine can expect payment for making Yavoriv available to NATO troops. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### OSCE: no mandate in war crimes case

RIGA - Following Russian demands for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to become involved in the case of Vasili Kononov, convicted war criminal, the organization's mission in Latvia said it has no such mandate, the BNS news agency reported on March 1. The Russian government reacted angrily to the conviction of the former Soviet partisan, which it said was "unfair." Mr. Kononov thanked Russia's acting President Vladimir Putin for his assistance in his case. Russia also voiced anger at the beginning of the trial of Yevgeni Savenko, who is charged with genocide and who publicly apologized to Janis Rungis, a victim of KGB oppression, "on behalf of all Russian people," the LETA press service added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Kyiv, Miensk agree on military cooperation

KYIV - Ukraine's Defense Minister Oleksander Kuzmuk and his Belarusian counterpart, Alyaksandr Chumakou, met in

Kyiv on March 2 and signed a bilateral cooperation agreement for 2000. Gen. Kuzmuk noted that the two countries are facing the same problems in the military sector, in particular, in modernizing their armed forces, recycling obsolete weaponry, and improving military training. Mr. Chumakou told journalists that Miensk does not plan to have any Russian troops stationed in Belarus during peacetime. He also noted that Belarus cooperates with NATO under the Partnership for Peace program but not on the scale "it would like to," according to Interfax. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Rada ratifies accord on NATO troops

KYIV - The Verkhovna Rada on March 2 voted 228-10 to ratify an agreement that defines the status of NATO troops and servicemen from countries participating in the Partnership for Peace program in Ukraine. NATO Secretary-General George Robertson said the agreement will help promote the increased use of Ukraine's Yavoriv training range for PFP maneuvers. The Parliament also ratified the Open Skies Treaty, which allows its signatories to monitor flights over one another's territory. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Moscow slams U.S. human rights report

MOSCOW - Moscow has rejected the U.S. State Department's annual report on human rights as "unacceptable." The report criticized what it called the indiscriminate use of force in Chechnya, resulting in the killing of civilians. In a state-

(Continued on page 11)

## UNA Branch 76

SUNDAY  
March 19, 2000  
Newark, N.J.

there will be a general annual meeting of Branch 76, St. John the Baptist Society, at 1 p.m. in the church basement of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Sandford Ave. and Ivy St. All members are asked to attend.

Andre Worobec, Secretary

## THEATER-STUDIO "ARABESQUES"

Kharkiv, Ukraine

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and

**Ukrainian Community Committees of the Cities on Tour**

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Eneyida and Favorite Poems  
136 Second Avenue

Sunday, March 19 at 8:00 p.m.  
Eneyida  
Ukrainian Institute of America  
2 East 79th Street

#### HARTFORD

Tuesday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m.  
Eneyida and Favorite Poems  
Ukrainian National Home  
961 Wethersfield Avenue

#### NEW HAVEN

Wednesday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m.  
Eneyida  
Church Hall, St. Michael's UCC  
563 George Street

#### ROCHESTER

Friday, March 24 at 7:00 p.m.  
Eneyida  
Church Hall, St. Mary's UOC  
3176 St. Paul's Blvd.

#### BUFFALO

TBA

#### CLEVELAND

Monday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m.  
Eneyida  
Church Hall, St. Mary's Center  
6812 Broadview Rd., Parma

Tuesday, March 28  
Favorite Poems  
TBA

#### DETROIT

Thursday, March 30  
Eneyida  
TBA

#### CHICAGO

Saturday, April 1  
Favorite Poems  
Sunday, April 2  
Eneyida  
Details TBA

#### PITTSBURGH

TBA

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thursday, April 6  
Favorite Poems  
Embassy of Ukraine

Friday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m.  
Eneyida  
Church Hall, St. Andrew's UOC  
15100 New Hampshire Ave  
Silver Spring

#### BALTIMORE

TBA

#### PHILADELPHIA

Sunday, April 9  
1:30 p.m. Favorite Poems  
3:00 p.m. Eneyida  
Ukrainian Cultural Center  
700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown

#### SO. BOUND BROOK

Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m.  
Eneyida  
Ukrainian Cultural Center,  
900 Davidson Ave.  
So. Bound Brook

#### NEWARK

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# Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 10)

ment issued on March 1, Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry said that the report was based on "unverified, biased information" about Russia's campaign in Chechnya and shows Washington's "prejudiced stance" toward human rights in Russia. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### British report atrocities against Chechens

LONDON – The Observer on March 5 cited eyewitness reports of an attack by Russian forces on February 4 against civilians in the village of Katyr-Yurt, 20 kilometers northeast of Grozny, Reuters reported. Russian planes reportedly began bombing the village that morning, and buses flying white flags were later sent to evacuate the villages. Those buses were then targeted by ground-to-air missiles. In all, some 363 people were killed in the attack. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Ukraine, Poland discuss cooperation

KYIV – Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Bronislaw Geremek met with Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk and Prime Minister Viktor Yushenko in Kyiv on March 2 to discuss boosting bilateral trade and plans to build an oil pipeline from Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa to Gdansk in Poland. Mr. Geremek said Poland is interested in the pipeline and will start talks on the issue. He noted that Poland will do everything in its power to delay as long as possible introducing visas for Ukrainians or avoid their introduction altogether. "We hope to convince the EU [European Union] that we need to have special relations with Ukraine," the Associated Press quoted Mr. Geremek as saying. Mr. Geremek told Mr. Yushenko that Poland is ready to share its experience in debt restructuring with Ukraine and help Ukraine carry out reforms. Mr. Yushenko said Ukraine wants to see Poland as a "strategic investor on the privatization market." (RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report)

### Putin does not exclude NATO membership

MOSCOW – In an interview broadcast on March 5, Russia's acting President Vladimir Putin told BBC Television that he does not rule out Moscow's joining NATO but stressed it will do so only "when Russia's views are taken into account as those of an equal partner." Saying he cannot imagine Russia being isolated from Europe, Mr. Putin remarked that "it is hard for me to visualize NATO as an enemy." "When we talk about our opposition to NATO's expansion..., we have never declared any region of the world a zone of our special interest," he said, adding that attempts to exclude Russia from the enlargement process have triggered such opposition in Moscow. With regard to Chechnya, Mr. Putin said Russia is acting against "extremists" who have turned the province into a "mini-Afghanistan." Russia's actions, he maintained, are aimed solely at "minimizing civilian casualties." The BBC interview was recorded on February 29, the same day as federal forces in Chechnya took Shatoi. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Ivanov: Putin's remark was hypothetical

MOSCOW – Commenting on acting President Vladimir Putin's remark that he does not rule out Russia's joining NATO on "equal terms," Russian Foreign Affairs

Minister Igor Ivanov said that statement had been taken out of context and did not represent a change of policy, Interfax reported. Mr. Ivanov told NTV on March 6 that Mr. Putin had given a "hypothetical answer to a hypothetical question." The acting president's main point was that "Russia wants to play a role in Western European institutions," Mr. Ivanov stressed. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Russian membership not on NATO agenda

BRUSSELS – As the United States and Britain welcomed acting President Vladimir Putin's NATO remark as signaling Russia's willingness to improve relations with the Atlantic alliance, NATO Secretary-General George Robertson commented on March 6 that the prospect of Russia's joining the alliance is not on the agenda for now, Reuters reported. Building on the alliance's existing ties with Moscow is already a "challenging task," Mr. Robertson said. At the same time, he noted that the alliance recognizes the need to continue its partnership with Moscow, and he lauded the "positive spirit" that Mr. Putin displayed in the BBC interview. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Pliusch wants to limit participation in CIS

KYIV – Parliament Chairman Ivan Pliusch said on March 6 that Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada should cease participating in sessions of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, Interfax reported. Mr. Pliusch said the Ukrainian Parliament should maintain contacts with the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly only "at the level of parliamentary committees" to discuss unifying CIS legislation on pensions, social security guarantees for servicemen, and the economy. CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly sessions are not "needed by anybody since they do not imply any commitments," he commented. Mr. Pliusch added that limiting the participation of the Verkhovna Rada in the CIS body will save Ukraine money. (RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report)

### Ukraine's industrial production grows

KYIV – The State Committee on Statistics on March 6 reported that the country's industrial output grew by 14.7 percent last month, compared with February 1999. Industrial growth was up 10.2 percent in the first two months of 2000, compared with the same period last year. The committee commented that companies increased production to take advantage of cheaper production costs, compared to those of foreign competitors, after the hryvnia lost value owing to the 1998 regional crisis. (RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report)

### Russia's Black Sea Fleet heavily indebted

SEVASTOPOL – Sevastopol Mayor Leonid Zhunko on March 6 said Russia's Black Sea Fleet has run up huge electricity debts to the city and impaired the city's ability to provide normal electricity and gas supplies to residents, Interfax reported. According to Mr. Zhunko, the fleet currently owes the city 40 million hrv (\$7.2 million U.S.), while the city's annual budget totals 100 million hrv. Mr. Zhunko said Sevastopol has become "hostage to the fleet's untimely payments," but he added that the city administration continues to maintain "working, non-politicized relations" with the fleet. (RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report)

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister



## Lidia Juzyczynska Handzy

on January 18, 2000

Funeral services were held on January 21, 2000, at St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J., followed by interment at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in East Hanover, N.J.

Remaining in deep sorrow:

- son – Jarema with wife Alexandra
- grandson – Damian with wife Renata
- grandson – Nestor
- great-grandson – Matthew
- sister – Olha Smal
- sister – Tatiana Pastushenko

families in the U.S., Canada and Ukraine – Dutkewych, Kaminsky, Pastushenko

### DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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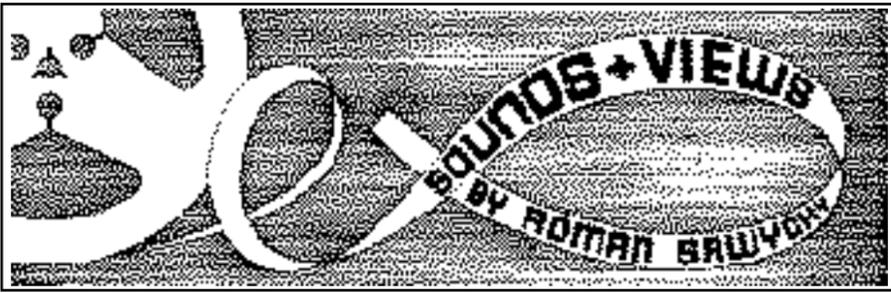
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## Unique concert celebrates lady of music

Hallowed ground bestows a unique aura to an occasion by elevating the event to a higher plane. The music is enveloped in a special setting with a spiritual ambiance not felt even in leading concert halls.

In the time-honored music tradition of European and American cathedrals, St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J., became on Sunday, February 13, a special concert hall for a memorial program honoring the late, prominent and beloved pianist-educator Daria Hordynska Karanowycz.

The excellent selection of religious and secular music was memorable as performed by singers and pianists belonging to the finest in the metropolitan area. A feeling of poignancy was conveyed through the native sound of Ukrainian music, fondly recalling "Pani Darka's" own large repertoire of composers whom the performers knew musically and personally.

Prof. Karanowycz's own performances and recordings of these Ukrainian composers were gifts to us from a generous soul. Even her Steinway grand piano became a centerpiece that special Sunday at St. John's – Prof. Karanowycz's last present to her parish.

In that spacious, lively acoustical church, designed by the late architect Julian Jastremsky, Diana Yurchuk spoke for the family of the late musician, recalling Prof.

Karanowycz's attitude to life, perhaps best expressed as a harmonious undertaking, as "Teta Darka's classes in composition of life."

Soprano Alexandra (Lesia) Hrabova, who was like a daughter to Prof. Karanowycz, performed opposite Oleh Chmyr, baritone, and Roman Tsymbala, tenor, as well as with Olia Stashyshyn on bandura. The visiting pianists were Laryssa Krupa and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, who also accompanied in the vocal selections.

The final and uplifting "Vladyko Neba i Zemli" from Hulak-Artemovsky's opera is a prayer for Ukraine; here it also became a devotional ensemble in memory of a grand lady of music.

All performers truly rose to the occasion. Attending were over 600 listeners, many of whom stayed on for an intimate gathering over wine, cheese and sweets.

The Rev. Bohdan Lukie, pastor of St. John's, is to be credited with preparing this feast for soul and body. Father Lukie has sound and practical ideas for a series of concerts intended to bring more culture to the parish and community that would feature performing artists from the metropolitan area. Such concerts, in turn, would build an audience by bringing more parishioners closer to the church and to one another.



Dorian Yurchuk

Baritone Oleh Chmyr, soprano Alexandra Hrabova and tenor Roman Tsymbala.

## Lectures to conclude milestone exhibit of Krychevsky's legacy

by Marta Baczynsky

NEW YORK – One of the most important, aesthetically rewarding and interesting exhibitions at The Ukrainian Museum will be closing on March 26. The exhibition, "The Cultural Legacy of Vasyl Hryhorovych Krychevsky" is a striking testament to the artist's superb talent as a painter. In addition, the viewers are presented with an opportunity to learn about his other achievements in the creative field, particularly as an architect and graphic artist and to appreciate his

accomplishments in the area of scholarly research and education. The paintings on exhibition were bequeathed to the museum's fine arts collection by Vadym and Olha Pavlovsky.

In bringing to a close the museum's tribute to Krychevsky, honoring him as one of Ukraine's outstanding public figures of the 20th century, two events have been planned, to be held at the institution on the weekend of March 24.

The first titled "An Evening to Celebrate Vasyl H. Krychevsky," is being organized by The Ukrainian Museum's

Public Relations Committee of Young Professionals, and is scheduled for Friday, March 24, at 6:30-8:30 p.m. Situated in the museum, in a social and casual atmosphere, the organizers aim to bring together young people – students and young professionals – to acquaint them with the museum, and to encourage them toward greater participation in its activities.

An overview of the exhibition with a gallery talk is also scheduled on the evening's agenda. The talk, in the English language, will be offered by Myroslava M. Mudrak, Ph.D., an associate professor in the department of history of art at Ohio State University. In her short presentation Dr. Mudrak will explore the prevailing artistic impulses influencing Krychevsky, particularly the effect of impressionist and luminist tendencies on the development of his painting style.

On Sunday, March 26 at 2 p.m., the museum will present a lecture, illustrated with slides, featuring Dr. Mudrak, who will discuss "Krychevsky and the Ukrainian Modern Style." Against the background of the exhibition, she will explore the multi-faceted creative genius of Krychevsky. Dr. Mudrak will examine his role as the principal propagator of a modernist visual culture in Ukraine in the early 20th century, focusing on the master as the originator of a native modern expression in architecture, as well as the key instigator of a native arts and crafts movement that earned him the title of "Father of the Ukrainian Modern Style."

Krychevsky was "a man who wore many hats." He produced set and costume designs for the Ukrainian theater

and worked as an art director and consultant to the Ukrainian film industry. For over a quarter of century he was one of Ukraine's most esteemed educators, one of the organizers of the Ukrainian State Academy of Arts in 1917, its first president and a teacher on its staff.

Without doubt Krychevsky's greatest achievement in the field of architecture was his design of the Poltava Zemstvo Building. The winning entry in the 1903 architectural competition, it gave impetus to the revival of the traditions of Ukrainian folk architecture to modern stone structures and set a trend in that direction among young architects in Ukraine.

The museum is very pleased to present Prof. Mudrak as a speaker in the above mentioned events, since she has devoted her scholarly interest to the study of art in East Central Europe, Ukraine and Russia. Although her areas of expertise also include the history of Ukrainian art from Byzantium to the present, modern art between the two world wars, and Socialist Realism and art under totalitarianism, she concentrates mostly on the modernist period of the early 20th century. Dr. Mudrak defended her doctoral thesis at the University of Texas at Austin and her seminal work, "New Generation and Aesthetic Modernism in Ukraine" (1986) was awarded the Kovaliw Prize for Ukrainian Studies. She lectures extensively and has published numerous articles in prestigious art journals.

For further information, please contact: The Ukrainian Museum, 203 Second Ave., New York, NY; telephone, (212) 228-0110; fax, (212) 228-1947; e-mail, UkrMus@aol.com; website, www.brama.com/ukrainian\_museum.



View of upper facade of the Poltava Zemstvo Building. Design by Vasyl H. Krychevsky.

## Violinist Soroka, composer Skoryk score in Washington area concert

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – A recital by award-winning Ukrainian violinist Solomia Soroka and the featured works by composer Myroslav Skoryk received high marks from the capital area's senior music critic Joseph McLellan.

Writing in the February 26 Washington Post, the critic also praised the two pianists who accompanied Ms. Soroka during the February 23 recital at the Chevy Chase Women's Club – Myroslava Kysylevych and Oksana Lassowsky.

Admitting that, as far as he could recall, he "never heard a note composed by Myroslav Skoryk" until this recital,

the reviewer added that the contemporary Ukrainian composer should be better known in this country.

"He is an original, a composer with a distinct identity, a mastery of many idioms – jazzy, folk-style and moderately avant-garde – that he uses to shape works embodying piquant contrasts, convincing climaxes and sometimes impish wit," Mr. McLellan wrote.

He called Mr. Skoryk's Sonata No. 2 for Violin and Piano, his Burlesque in C for Solo Piano and Spanish Dance for Violin and Piano the highlights of the program. While focusing on Ukrainian composers ("a sadly neglected group in this country"), he said, the program also

(Continued on page 17)



Yaro Bihun

Violinist Solomia Soroka (second from left) greeted by TWG Cultural Fund Director Laryssa Chopivsky (left) and former ambassador to Ukraine, William Green Miller, and his wife, Suzanne Miller, following her concert in Washington.



Natalia Khoma



ika

Volodymyr Vynnytsky

## Khoma and Vynnytsky invited to perform in Japanese program

NEW YORK – Cellist Natalia Khoma and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky will perform before an invited audience at Steinway Hall in a concert to be broadcast next year in Japan as part of Japan's "Classical Hour" television program. The concert program will feature the works of Schumann, Brahms, Casad6 and Granados.

The duo, natives of Lviv who both studied at the Moscow Conservatory, are among the 12 artists who will be featured in the televised concert series.

Ms. Khoma has distinguished herself as a recitalist and soloist with leading ensembles and orchestras around the world since winning top prizes at the Budapest Pablo Casals Competition, the Markneukirchen and the Tchaikovsky international competitions, as well as the Belgrade International Cello Competition.

A laureate of the Marguerite Long-Jacques Thibaud Piano Competition in Paris and the Distinguished Artists Award in New York, Mr. Vynnytsky has played recitals and with orchestras in Europe and the United States. He has earned a reputation as a brilliant chamber music performer and is known for his collaboration with many distinguished artists.

The concert is produced by Julia Kedersha Artists Management with D'Alessio Media; it will be filmed by NHK Satellite TV.

## Arabesky drama troupe from Kharkiv arrives for its second tour of U.S.

NEW YORK – Back for its second U.S. tour, the Kharkiv-based Arabesky Theater Studio is bringing its repertoire of classical Ukrainian theater to Ukrainian centers this March and April.

Established in 1993 by 18-year-old Svitlana Oleshko of Kharkiv State University and several drama students, this troupe promotes the Ukrainian language through theater in parts of the Old Country long subject to ruthless Russification.

Those who remember their spring 1996 tour will hearken back to Arabesky's original interpretation of modern Ukrainian playwright Mykola Khylovyi and 1920s Ukrainian revival drama. This time, however, the troupe is returning to America with a new and original program. It is reaching back further in time to spotlight the dean of classical Ukrainian literature and father of modern literary Ukrainian, Ivan Kotliarevsky.

Kotliarevsky's "Eneyida," a take-off on Vergil's "Aeneid," turned Greco-Roman tragedy into travesty. Arabesky take this process a half-step further on the road to farce. An award-winning playwright Ms. Oleshko, has cast the lead character, "Brave Young Eney," traditionally portrayed as a large and boisterous Kozak, in a highly unconventional way – with tiny but towering Natalia Tsymbal playing the hero's role.

With a lady in the lead male role, Ms. Oleshko then cast gentlemen – Ruslan Nykonenko, Vadym Korobka and Armen Kaloyan – in ladies' roles. This fits in with the director's strategy of literally turning everyone and everything on their head.

Props are few and far between as the courageous crew of four tell the story of Eney and his (mis)adventures, as he battles malevolent monarchs and slays enemies left and right, all the while

moving forward in his quest for – well, we will leave that for those who come and see the play.

And the English-speaking readers should be aware that this play is not highly language dependent. Interspersed with 18 adapted Ukrainian folk songs and blessed with excellent choreography and dynamism on the part of the cast, "Eneyida" is a pleasure for all who appreciate theater – and in particular those who are curious to see just what Ukraine's next generation of actors and playwrights has to offer as we slip into the third millennium.

Arabesky also has something for younger kids.

Ms. Oleshko and her troupe have prepared a special presentation for children (and not only children). Titled "Favorite Poems," this is a collection of staged poetry.

The performance has a little bit of everything: music, poetry, dance and song.

And children are portrayed as they are: graceful and complete. One sees children as they awaken, take offense, cleverly plot and plan, eat and fall asleep.

These 20 children's poems by Ukrainian and other authors of various periods comprise a day in the protagonists' lives.

The tour of this Kharkiv drama ensemble is sponsored by the Ukrainian National Association in cooperation with Ukrainian community committees in the cities where Arabesky will perform. The tour, which begins March 18 in New York, extends through April 14.

Among the cities on the itinerary are: Hartford and New Haven, Conn., Rochester and Buffalo, N.Y., Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Washington, Philadelphia, and South Bound Brook and Newark, N.J.



Members of the Arabesky drama troupe in a scene from "Eneyida."

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## MISCELLANEOUS

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## UNWLA Detroit Regional...

(Continued from page 6)

pysanky, Easter breads and traditional Christmas and Easter meals along with wood-inlay art, embroidery, and kylym weaving.

While the many dedicated women who devote their time, energy and efforts to the myriad activities are too numerous to mention individually, there is one who stands out and serves recognition as the epitome of "a woman of both worlds." Mary V. Beck was born in the United States and finished high school in Ukraine. She subsequently received her undergraduate and law degrees in the United States. She was actively involved in the UNWLA since its founding in 1929 and presented a speech at its first convention in May 1932. Ms. Beck was elected to the Detroit City Council for several terms and served as mayor pro tem-

pore. She was inaugurated into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 1991.

The nearly 400 Ukrainian American women of the 12 local Detroit branches are continuing the worthwhile work of their predecessors, guiding their activities by the principles of Christian ethics, religious tolerance, political non-partisanship and support of human rights. They and their families are justifiably proud of their many achievements and accomplishments and wish to share their joy with the communities in which they live.

The UNWLA Detroit Regional Council is proudly preparing to celebrate its 75th anniversary on Saturday, March 18, at 5:30 p.m., at the St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Parish Center in Warren, Mich., with a dinner and program. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at local Ukrainian credit unions and the EKO Gallery or from members.

## FDR's legacy...

(Continued from page 7)

of oppression. The rules of politics are changing. What was once a "necessary evil" 100 years ago is no longer acceptable today. Non-violence and basic standards of human rights have become a force to be reckoned with, and this is something new under the sun.

By tearing down the pillars of segregation and institutional racism, King actually helped to restore America's moral authority to challenge the Soviet Union and to challenge lesser despots around the world. King enabled America to address the issues of human rights in the global arena without fear of ridicule of its own glaring internal contradictions. For all the social and political upheaval it caused, the civil rights movement and Gandhi's "satyagraha" campaign showed that humanity could achieve radical social transformation without destroying social institutions, and this

has given other revolutionaries the strength and the daring to dissent and to enter into meaningful negotiations with their oppressors in Ukraine, Russia, Chile, Ireland, Palestine and other historic flash-points.

If it were not for the example set by Gandhi and the civil rights movement, it is highly doubtful that the Solidarity movement in Poland and the Rukh movement in Ukraine could have achieved as much as they did with so little bloodshed. Dr. Kuropas may scoff at the shortcomings of Rukh and the inadequacies of the government it created, but this feeble democracy has remained intact and kept Ukraine independent far longer than any of the experiments that were ushered in by armed struggle.

As we evaluate the great spirits and the momentous events that shaped the last century, it is worth keeping an open mind about the "bit players" who commanded no armored divisions, but whose faith moved mountains nonetheless.

## SUSPENDED MEMBERS FOR 1999

*In accordance with the By-Laws of the Ukrainian National Association Inc., we are publishing a list of members whose policies were suspended in 1999 due to non-payment of premiums. These members should immediately contact the UNA Home Office at 1-800-253-9862 to reinstate their policies and membership privileges.*

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Seniw, Dana M.		397	J096441		
Seniw, Ihor		397	A187990		
Seniw, Irene		397	A187938		
Seniw, Jaroslava I.		397	A187937		
Seniw, Wasyl		397	A187939		
Shoturma, Petro		32	A061282		
Smiszekwycz, Marko		777	A188043		
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Sochan, Maria		287	A196519		
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Soltivsky, Larissa A.		377	A189893		
Soltivsky, Orest		377	A185639		
Spolsky, Myron		440	A195983		
Taylor, Stephanie		296	J099596		
Wasylyk, Mary		777	A184874		
Woroniak, John		147	A062478		
Wybaczynsky, A.		489	A164873		
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Wybaczynsky, T. V.		489	A173286		
Yadlos, Lidia		287	J103319		
Yavarow, Alexandra N.		238	J100097		

# NOTES ON PEOPLE

## Artist cited among best of county

by Irena D'Alessio

NEW YORK – Shanya Sawczuk of Rhinebeck, N.Y., a talented and successful Ukrainian painter and photographer who has exhibited continuously since 1968, was chosen as one of 1999's best artists in Dutchess County, N.Y. Her painting "Mysteries of the Sea," a pencil work, was recently displayed at the Windows Art Gallery in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Working mostly on paper in a mixed medium combining pencil, watercolor crayon and ink, Ms. Sawczuk also works in oil on canvas. Her primary focus in both her photography and painting is landscape. "Over the years, I found myself drawn to nature as a favorite subject. I am constantly inspired by its mutability. I try to capture a mood in order to inspire contemplation and personal interpretation by the viewer," stated the artist.

Ms. Sawczuk, born and raised in New York City, received a bachelor of fine arts degree from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, studying fine arts, photography and graphic design. She also studied theater design at the University of London, and received a certificate from the New York School of Interior Design. In 1975 the artist moved to the Hudson Valley where she has achieved recognition as a successful painter, photographer and interior designer. Her work has



Shanya Sawczuk

been exhibited at the Tivoli Artists' Co-op, Tivoli, N.Y., Dutchess Community College and the Barrett Art Center in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and the Mountaintop Gallery in Windham, N.Y. She was also curator for the Tivoli Artists' Co-op from 1997 to 1999. A collection of Ms. Sawczuk's work is at the Lviv Museum of Art in Ukraine, as well as numerous private collections.

Ms. Sawczuk is the daughter of Nadia and Bohdan Sawczuk. Her sister, Dana Talia Lenec, and her father, Bohdan Sawczuk, are also artists. The Sawczuks are members of UNA Branch 194.

## Two Petrenkos on active duty

SUN CITY WEST, Ariz. – Two Petrenkos are currently on active duty in the U.S. Army.

Victor Petrenko, a graduate of Arizona State University, entered active duty in May 1983. He was recently promoted to lieutenant colonel and assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., where he served as a battalion commander with the 82nd Airborne Division.

In the past he has held assignments as observer-controller for the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., and operations officer at Fort Campbell, Ky., home of 101st Airborne Division Air Assault. At Fort Campbell he also was executive officer and fire support officer for the aviation brigade.

Lt. Col. Petrenko attended Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Prior to his most recent assignment at Fort Bragg he was plans officer for the XVIII Airborne Corps,

an aide-de-camp to the assistant corps commander, the liaison officer to the 18th Field Artillery Brigade, a battery commander and a battalion adjutant. He also served in Germany.

His brother, Ihor Petrenko, a graduate of the Northern University of Arizona, entered active duty in October 1987. He was recently promoted to the rank of major and is looking forward to an assignment in Italy.

Maj. Petrenko previously served as a U.S. Armored Cavalry officer in Korea, Fort Polk, La., and Fort Hood, Texas. In 1993 he attended the Army Aviation Rotary Wing School at Fort Rucker, Ala. He also attended the Army Fixed Wing and Special Electronic Missions Aircraft courses.

Later he was stationed once again in Korea as a commander of a reconnaissance company. He currently is the airfield commander at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., where he also flies – both as an instructor and a unit trainer for new Army aviators.

Both Army officers are sons of Leonid Petrenko, who has recently enrolled in UNA Branch 184.



Lt. Col. Victor Petrenko



Maj. Ihor Petrenko

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## Yuschenko says...

(Continued from page 3)

does so to avoid the large payments for social security and state medical benefits.

The survey determined, using a hypothetical business so as not to force businessmen to divulge personal information, that about two-thirds of all firms pay less than 50 percent of the taxes due. Nearly 54 percent of the respondents indicated that tax payments of between 21 percent and 30 percent of profit would be acceptable and would not harm the company.

The other major problems cited in the report are: a lack of working capital, low market demand for products, legislative conditions, inflation and administrative controls by public agencies.

The report also delved into corruption – a major concern in this country, which is considered to be among the most corrupt in the world.

Again referring to the hypothetical company, the survey revealed that 23.2 percent believed that at least 10 percent of profits must be paid to public officials, while 9.4 percent said that from 21 percent to 40 percent must be paid.

Only about 32.2 percent of respon-

dents said they believed the hypothetical company did not pay bribes. Notably, some 80 percent of the firms that responded to the question on what would be the optimum amount of tax to pay said they could not survive without “informal relations with public officials.”

“Tax authorities were named three and a half more times as often as police and approximately twice as often as local authorities,” the report noted.

Oleksandra Kuzhel, head of the State Committee on Entrepreneurial Expansion, said the “most unpleasant question pertained to the issue of bribes and corruption.”

“A businessman looks at the bottom line. Of course he does not want to pay taxes, but the burden would be less if he didn’t have to pay bribes, as well,” said Ms. Kuzhel.

While no one here is hiding the fact that large problems remain in Ukraine’s business sector, or that a good number of respondents voiced concern that within a year the economy could again be increasingly government-controlled, Ms. Kuzhel took heart in knowing that fully one-third of the respondents who were not currently in private business said that they would like to be in the future – another sign that Ukraine’s economic doldrums may be on the wane.

## Percent Reporting the Most Important Problem Facing Their Business, by Employment Size of Business\*

Problem	SIZE OF BUSINESS		
	Small (0 to 50 employees)	Medium (51 to 250 employees)	Large (more than 250 employees)
Existing Tax System	43.9	49.8	47.4
Lack of Working Capital	10.1	15.4	18.3
Low Market Demand for Products	11.5	8.0	6.5
Legislative Conditions	7.2	7.1	6.2
Inflation	8.1	2.8	3.2
Administrative Controls by Public Agencies	2.8	1.3	1.1

\*Several other problems were identified, such as obtaining credit, interest rates, shortages of raw materials, labor availability and cost, etc., but the very low response rates indicated that these were not significant problems for Ukrainian businesses.

Source: U.S. Agency for International Development and Ukraine’s State Committee for Entrepreneurial Development.

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1. Вільям Нолл. Трансформація громадянського суспільства. 560 с. Кол. та ч./білі фото. 25 дол.
2. Зінаїда Тарахан-Берега. Святиня. Документальна історія Тарасової Могили в Каневі. 540 с. Понад 400 кол. та ч./білих фото. 25 дол.
3. Родовід, журнал про історію культури. 5-17 числа. 120 с. Колір. 11 дол. за число.
4. Юрій Тарнавський. 6x0 (драматичні твори). 19 дол.
5. Юрій Тарнавський. їх немає (поезії). 22 дол.

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**DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF UNA BRANCHES**  
 of  
**DETROIT, MI**  
 announces that its  
**ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
 will be held on  
**SUNDAY, March 26, 2000 at 10:00 AM**  
**at Ukrainian Cultural Center**  
**26601 Ryan Rd., Room 10, Warren, MI 48091**  
 (Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:  
 29, 82, 94, 146, 165, 174, 175, 183, 235, 292, 303, 309, 341  
 All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting  
 Meeting will be attended by:  
**MARTHA LYSKO - NATIONAL SECRETARY UNA**  
*District Committee:*  
 Alexander Serafyn, District Chairman  
 Roman Lazarchuk, Secretary Jaroslav Bazjuk, Treasurer

# Carteret UNWLA collects toys, clothing and medicines for Ukraine



CARTERET, N.J. – For the second year in a row, Branch 100 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America has initiated a collection of clothing, toys and medicine for orphanages in Ukraine. Because of very positive response from the local community in Carteret and generous donations from the Self-Reliance Credit Union in Clifton and the Ukrainian Orthodox Credit Union in New York, Branch 100 was able to send 29 packages to orphanages in Vinnytsia, Dnipropetrovsk, Zhytomyr and Kherson. The packages contained clothing, toys, coloring supplies, medicine and books. Pictured above are members of Branch 100 sorting and packing clothing to be sent to Ukraine.

## Ukraine's bumpy road...

(Continued from page 7)

manager," he said on February 22 during his state of the nation address to the Rada. I'm sure the IMF took notice and approved.

Can Mr. Kuchma now deliver? First of all, the coalition that ousted Mr. Tkachenko will have to hold together to pass reform legislation. That's where President Kuchma's political skills will come into play. But even if they pass, will new laws make a difference? If Ukraine's leaders show personal integrity and the Ukrainian people seize the opportunity of

free enterprise, then they will. But what about the Communists? They've lost election after election in Ukraine, but still command the loyalty of a lot of people, particularly in the economically depressed East. Ideally, they will evolve into a responsible political opposition. Realistically, you have to accept that they're capable of plenty of mischief.

There are lots of questions and plenty of room for both optimism and gloom. So is the glass half empty on Ukraine or is it half full? It all depends on whether you're pouring or spilling. It all depends. So hold on to your hats. Democracy is a bumpy ride.

## Violinist Soroka...

(Continued from page 13)

included landmarks in the standard repertoire for violin and piano, notably Giuseppe Tartini's "Devil's Trill" sonata and Pablo de Sarasate's "Zigeunerweisen" ("Gypsy Airs").

The reviewer noted that the violinist had "two talented pianists who took turns playing and turning pages: Myroslava Kysylevych, who soloed in the Burlesque, and Oksana Lassowsky, whose partnership in the "Zigeunerweisen" helped to produce one of the finest performances I have ever heard of that much-played work."

"Soroka is a superbly equipped violinist, at ease with the technical challenges of Sarasate or of Jeno Hubay's Czardas No. 2, but even more impressive in the gentler moments of Yevhen Stankovych's "Cradle Song" and Mykola Lysenko's pleasantly conventional Fantasy No. 2 on Ukrainian themes," Joseph McLellan wrote. "Her tone is warm and mellow on the low strings, brilliant on the high strings, perfectly controlled and expressively used."

The recital was sponsored jointly by

the Cultural Fund of The Washington Group, an association of Ukrainian-American professionals, and the Embassy of Ukraine.

Solomia Soroka, who debuted at the age of 10 with the Lviv Philharmonic Orchestra, is the first-prize winner of three international violin competitions – the Lysenko Competition, the Prokofiev Competition and the "Zolota Osin." She has soloed with many chamber and symphony orchestras, and is currently a doctoral candidate at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y.

Ms. Kysylevych, an honors graduate from the Lysenko Higher State Music Institute in Lviv, has performed throughout Ukraine and in Eastern Europe. She is now a candidate for a master's degree in music at the University of Minnesota, studying with Lydia Artymiw.

Ms. Lassowsky, who studied piano under Annette Roussel-Pesche and Cecilia Dunoyer, was a semi-finalist at the Stravinsky International Piano Competition at the University of Illinois. She has given recitals in Cleveland, Philadelphia, New York, Buffalo, Reading and Annapolis.

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**CHICAGO, IL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**  
*of the*  
**UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

*announces that its*  
**ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*will be held on*

**Saturday, March 25, 2000 at 3:00 PM**  
**at the Ukrainian Cultural Center**  
**2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL.**

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

**17, 22, 107, 114, 125, 131, 139, 157, 176, 220, 221, 259, 379, 390, 423, 451, 472**

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting

**MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:**

**STEFKO KUROPAS - UNA Vice-President**  
**HONORARY MEMBERS OF UNA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**STEPAN KUROPAS**  
**MYRON KUROPAS**

*District Committee:*

**Stefko Kuropas - District Chairman**  
**Stepan Kuropas - Honorary District Chairman**  
**Andrij Skyba - Secretary**  
**Dobslav Kokotuzza, Treasurer**

**NEW YORK, NY DISTRICT COMMITTEE**  
*of the*  
**UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

*announces that its*  
**ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*will be held on*

**FRIDAY, March 24, 2000 at 6:30 PM**  
**at "Selfreliance" Association**  
**98 Second Ave., New York, NY**

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

**5, 6, 8, 16, 86, 130, 158, 184, 194, 200, 204, 205, 256, 267, 293, 325, 327, 361, 456, 480**

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting

*District Committee:*

**Barbara Bachynsky - District Chairman**  
**Lesia Gay, Secretary**  
**John Chorna, Treasurer**

**Honorary District Chairpersons**

**Dr. Yurii O. Ets**                      **Dr. Vasyi Lushchkiw**

## Kuchma's proposed...

(Continued from page 2)

two weeks before the vote is scheduled. At the same time, more than 100 Ukrainian deputies have appealed to the country's Constitutional Court to rule on the referendum's legality. President Kuchma has said that he will respect the court's ruling.

The proposed referendum has prompted comparison with Belarus, where President Alyaksandr Lukashenka used a direct popular vote to disband the Parliament and extend his term in office. Belarus was then an associate member of the 41-nation Council of Europe, which asked Miensk not to carry out the referendum after the Venice Commission had found it undemocratic. Mr. Lukashenka refused, and Belarus lost its associative status.

By contrast, Moldova, a Council of Europe member, sought to carry out a similar referendum but later heeded the council's advice and canceled the vote.

Ms. Severinsen said she does not want Ukraine to go down the same path as Belarus, which under President Lukashenka has one of the poorest human-rights records in Europe. "We don't like to compare the situations, but there are some similarities [to Belarus]

and we think therefore it's very important for [Ukraine] that what the Venice Commission is saying about legality is also followed, so we don't run the risk of having a referendum that is unconstitutional," she noted.

The Council of Europe has some leverage if Mr. Kuchma refuses to heed a Venice Commission ruling against the referendum. Since Ukraine joined the organization in 1995, the council has threatened to suspend Ukraine's membership several times because Kyiv has not fulfilled many of its obligations as a member. This time, it could carry out the suspension threat.

One of President Kuchma's arguments for holding the referendum is that the long-standing conflict between the president and the Parliament - where leftist deputies have blocked all government-sponsored draft laws - has to be resolved.

But the mere proposal of the referendum, which Mr. Kuchma characterized as "an axe hanging over the head" of lawmakers, may have already broken the deadlock in Parliament.

After President Kuchma called for the referendum, the Verkhovna Rada formed a pro-government majority. Some lawmakers have already dubbed that breakthrough Ukraine's "velvet revolution."

## What are...

(Continued from page 2)

first time in the history of their country any level of democratic election. So, for the first time they are confronted with the possibility of making a choice and their choice counting," he noted.

Tajikistan is a case in point. Tajiks recently voted in parliamentary elections for the first time since 1991. The elections are part of a peace accord ending a bloody civil war.

Marie Struthers of Human Rights Watch, an international monitoring group, has been working in Tajikistan on and off since 1997, when the accord was signed.

She told RFE/RL that one of the most difficult obstacles on the road to democracy is voter education: "People have not seen candidates express diverging views - although the views are not so divergent

in Tajikistan - via the press. And they are not used to having one platform compared or contrasted against another."

"I mean, I speak to people every day in the streets, in the stores, and I ask them: 'Who will you vote for?' 'What party will you vote for?' And they say: 'We don't really understand the difference between the parties ... and we don't know many of the people presenting themselves because they haven't been exposed to us,'" she added.

Ms. Struthers said the transition to free and fair elections in a country like Tajikistan is a slow process. But she has no doubt about the importance of implementing a democratic system. She noted that people have to be allowed to exercise their right to choice in a free manner.

In her words: "They should be able to say, 'I vote for this person' in an unrestricted manner - without intimidation, without pressure and without reprisal."

**DISTRICT COMMITTEE of UNA BRANCHES**

*of*  
**CLEVELAND, OHIO**

*announces that its*  
**ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*will be held on*

**Saturday, March 25, 2000 at 3:00 PM**  
**Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic Church**  
**6812 Broadview Rd., Parma, OH**

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

**102, 112, 166, 180, 222, 233, 240, 291, 358, 364**

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting

**MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:**

**MARTHA LYSKO - National Secretary UNA**  
**TARAS SZMAGALA Jr. - UNA Advisor**  
**TARAS SZMAGALA - Honorary Member of UNA**  
**General Assembly**

*District Committee*

**Taras Szmagala Jr. - District Chairman**  
**Zenon Holubec - Treasurer**

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 316**

As of March 1, 2000, the secretary's duties of Branch 316 were assumed by Mr. Myroslaw Blahyj. We ask all members of this Branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance, as well as their membership premiums to the address listed below.

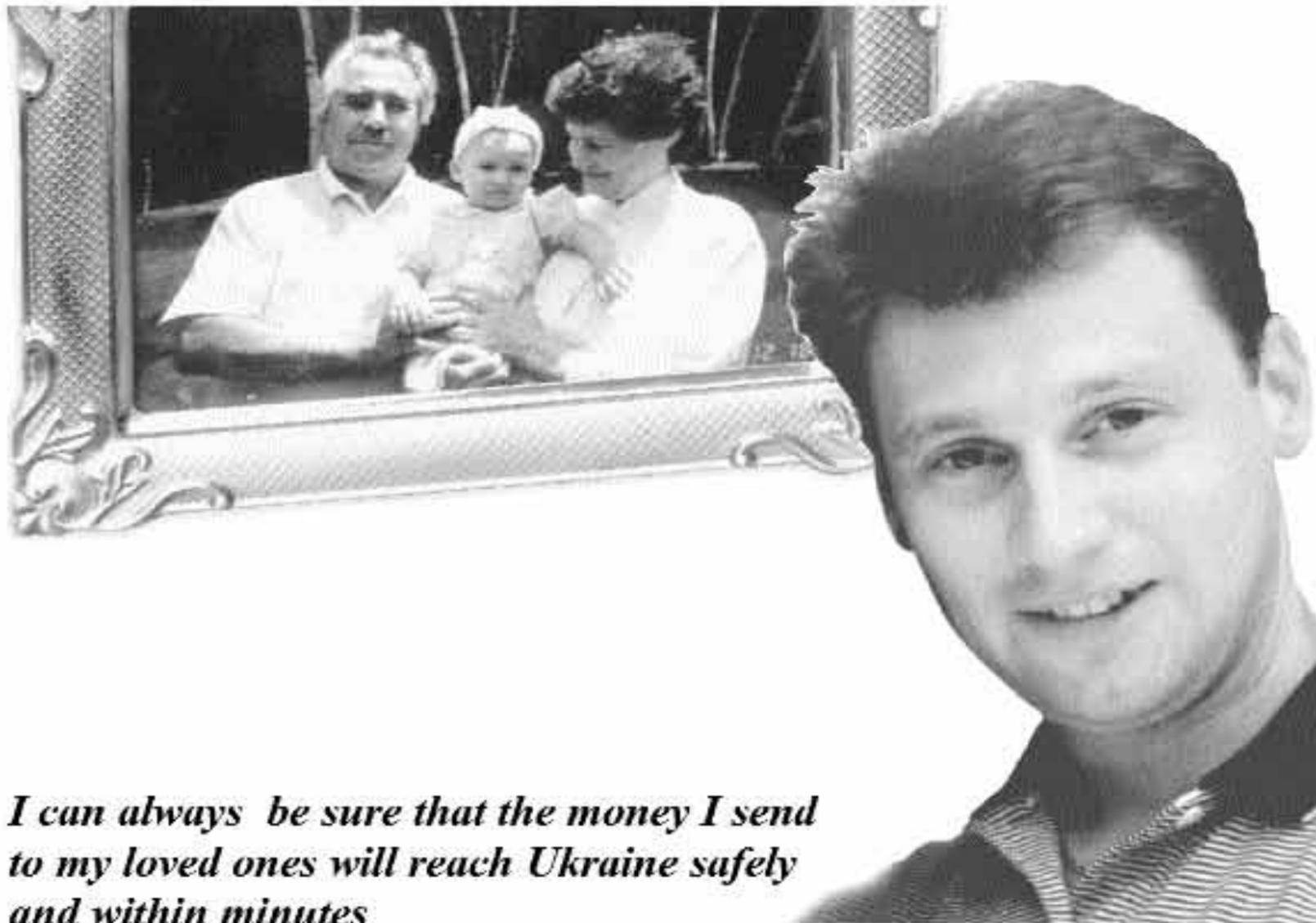
Mr. Myroslaw Blahyj  
259 Spring St.  
Avon, NY 14414-1117  
(716) 226-3044

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 484**

As of March 1, 2000, the secretary's duties of Branch 484 were assumed by Mrs. Natalie Cholawka. We ask all members of this Branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance, as well as their membership premiums to the address listed below.

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 24)

gallery talk (in English) for young professionals and students titled "An Evening to Celebrate Vasyl H. Krychevsky," with guest speaker Myroslava Mudrak, Ph.D., associate professor in the department of history of art at Ohio State University, in conjunction with the museum's current exhibition, "The Cultural Legacy of Vasyl Hryhorovych Krychevsky." The presentation begins at 6:30 p.m. A wine and cheese reception will follow. For additional information call (212) 228-0110; fax, (212) 228-1947; or e-mail: UkrMus@aol.com

**MORRISTOWN, N.J.:** The Moscow Soloists, led by Lviv-born viola virtuoso Yuri Bashmet, will appear at the Community Theatre in Morristown at 8 p.m., in a program of Tchaikovsky's "Andante Cantabile" and "Serenade in C major for Strings" and Shostakovich's "Sinfonia for Viola and Strings." Tickets, at \$38, \$33 and \$28, are available by calling the Ticket Hotline, (973) 539-8008, through Ticketmaster, at the box office and online at [www.communitytheatrenj.com](http://www.communitytheatrenj.com). The Community Theatre is located at 100 South St.

**TORONTO:** The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) Seminar in Ukrainian Studies at the University of Toronto presents Myrna Kostash, who will speak on "Ethnicity and Ethnic Consciousness in the Next Canada," a presentation based on the author's forthcoming book, "The Next Canada: In Search of the Future Nation." The presentation will be held at University College, Room 152, at 4 p.m.

**Saturday, March 25**

**NEW YORK:** "Music at the Institute" presents "Anthologies - Johannes Brahms: Sonatas for Violin and Piano," featuring Yuri Mazurkevich, violin, and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano. The concert will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 8 p.m. The concert is sponsored by Dr. Ihor and Marta Fedoriv in memory of Wolodymyr Trytyak. For additional information call the institute, (212) 288-8660.

**Sunday, March 26**

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Museum, 203 Second Ave., will present a lecture (in Ukrainian) illustrated with slides, titled "Krychevsky and the Ukrainian Modern Style," with Myroslava Mudrak, Ph.D., associate professor in the department of history of art at Ohio State University. The lecture is given in conjunction with the museum's current exhibition "The Cultural Legacy of Vasyl Hryhorovych Krychevsky." The presentation begins at 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Admission fee: \$10; discount for museum members. For information call (212) 228-0110; fax, (212) 228-1947; or e-mail [UkrMus@aol.com](mailto:UkrMus@aol.com)

**CHICAGO:** the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art presents a concert featuring pianist Serhiy Babayan in a program of works by Vine, Rachmaninoff and Bach. The concert will be held at the institute, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 2 p.m.

**TORONTO:** St. Vladimir Institute is offering a five-week workshop series on how to make traditional Ukrainian Easter eggs

(pysanky). Classes will be held at the institute, 620 Spadina Ave., on Mondays, March 27-April 24, at 7-9 p.m. Fees: \$15 per session; \$60 full series (including materials). For further information and registration call (416) 923-3318.

**ADVANCE NOTICE**

**Saturday and Sunday, April 8-9**

**NEW HAVEN, Conn.:** The Yale-Ukraine Initiative invites the public to Yale University's International Conference "Ukrainian Politics in the 20th Century." Panels titles include: "The Historical Legacy: Politics in Ukraine 1890-1917"; "The 1999 Presidential Elections, Economic Transformations: Macro and Micro Perspectives"; "Language and National Identity, and Cultural Politics from the 1920s to the Present." The keynote address will be delivered by Prof. Roman Szporluk of Harvard University. Invited speakers from Ukraine include Valerii Khmelko, chair of the sociology department at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, and Serhiy Hrabovsky of the Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The conference will take place in Luce Hall Auditorium, 34 Hillhouse Ave.; the conference banquet will be held at The Quinpiack Club, 221 Church St., on Saturday evening. For registration information call (203) 432-3107; fax (203) 432-5963; e-mail [yale-ukraine.initiative@yale.edu](mailto:yale-ukraine.initiative@yale.edu), or see webpage at <http://www.yale.edu/rees/yui.html>.

**Sunday, April 9**

**BUFFALO, N.Y.:** The Regional Council of Upstate New York of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) - Rochester, Buffalo and Syracuse chapters, will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the the UNWLA and the 45th anniversary of UNWLA's Regional Council of Upstate New York, with a dinner and commemorative program, to be held at St. John the Baptist Church, Hall, 3275 Elmwood Ave., Kenmore, N.Y., starting at 1:15 p.m. Guest of honor and keynote speaker will be Iryna Kurovychkyj, UNWLA president. Tickets: adults, \$15; children under 12, \$6. Deadline for reservations: Sunday, April 2. For further information and table reservations in Buffalo, call Ulana Loza, (716) 836-6798, or Lida Stasiuk, (716) 675-8460; in Rochester, call Ulana Babiuk, (716) 872-4263. Also tickets will be available every Sunday at The Mosaic gift shop on the lower level of St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Rochester, N.Y.

**Monday-Friday, May 22-26**

**LVIV:** The Fifth Conference on Ukrainian Economics, sponsored by the International Ukrainian Economic Association and the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences, will be held on May 22-26 in Lviv. Those interested in Ukrainian economics are invited to attend. Papers on any aspect of Ukrainian economics, transition economics, economics of Eastern Europe and related topics are welcome. Conference papers will be subsequently published in a volume of proceedings. For further information, contact: Prof. I.S. Koropeckyj, Department of Economics, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122, telephone, (215) 517-7389; fax, (215) 204-8173; e-mail, [iskor@nimbus.temple.edu](mailto:iskor@nimbus.temple.edu)



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# UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

## Teens from Ukraine compete in international debating championship

HOLMDEL, N.J. – On January 30 through February 5 Duquesne University in Pittsburgh hosted the World School Debating Championship of 2000 with teams from 28 countries, including Ukraine, participating.

Representing Ukraine were 15- and 16-year-old speakers Tanya Bersheda of Kyiv, Sveta Bazhanova of Odesa and Katya Yasko of Kyiv. The delegation included Anna Prorochenko, an independent adjudicator from Ukraine, and coach Ella Lamakh.

All debates were held in English. The Ukrainian debaters won two debates – against Estonia and the Czech Republic – out of a possible eight.

They debated whether the United Nations should take a stronger stand against human rights abuses and whether multinational corporations have done more harm than good. Other debates covered whether strict punishment is the best way to decrease juvenile crime, and whether science and technology are advancing too quickly for the good of society.

The young delegates from Ukraine were unfamiliar with the so-called “world style” of debating, but after the first two rounds they were able to debate on the same level as, for example, the team from Pakistan, which was considered the best English-as-a-second-language team.

The rules of the competition were straightforward: each side was given a topic and told whether they would argue for or against the proposition. The three members of each team then alternated as speakers, first as proponents of the argument and then as opponents, arguing their positions for eight minutes each. The final rebuttal was then given by one member of each team speaking for four minutes with the opponents speaking first and the proponents speaking last.

The debate was then scored by seven adjudicators on a point system. The winner was the team closest to receiving 350 points and the team named as the winner by the most judges.

The members of the Ukrainian debating team expressed thanks to Jaroslaw and Lida Czernyk of New York and Bernard and Anna Krawczuk of New Jersey for opening their homes to them and for their hospitality, as well as to New Jerseyans Orysia Jacus and Luba Bilowchtchuk for making them feel welcome.

Upon their arrival in Pittsburgh, the team was warmly greeted and supported by Michael Korchynsky and A. Nykonchuk. Team members noted their gratitude to Michael Komichak of the Ukrainian Radio Program in Pittsburgh, Petro and Luba Hlutkowski, Anna Konetska, Maria Starodub and the local



*Young debaters with their coach, judge and hosts: (first row from left) Orysia Jacus, Anna Prorochenko, Ella Lamakh and Katya Yasko; (second row) Luba Bilowchtchuk, Sveta Bazhanova and Anna Krawczuk.*

Ukrainian American community for their confidence-building support.

The teenage debaters said they feel it was a great experience – not only for debating on the international level, but more importantly for the exposure and experience of communicating with people from other countries. They made new friends and informed others about Ukraine.

They hope to find financial resources in order to participate in

next year's championships in South Africa. They also hope to someday to see such international debates in Ukraine.

The Debate Program in Ukraine is a movement whose goal is to encourage youth involvement in Ukrainian society, as well as to teach critical thinking skills, foster interest in current events, promote tolerance and understanding, and encourage study of rhetoric and public speaking.

## SCHOOL PROFILE: St. John the Baptist, Newark, N.J.

NEWARK, N.J. – As the church bells chimed, the “congregation” sat reflectively, looking at the mosaic before them. The pastor walked solemnly to the pulpit, hung his head and suddenly exclaimed: “Today is Father Bohdan’s birthday!” Amid a chorus of “Alleluia,” the congregation burst out into “Mnohaya Lita!”

This exemplifies the spirit at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School in Newark, N.J. Under the direction of kindergarten teacher Natalka Kudryk, the school family recently celebrated the birthday of its pastor/school director.

The school, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary, is a highly acclaimed academic institution that always has room for creativity and fun.

The Rev. Bohdan Lukie proudly says: “St. John’s Ukrainian Catholic School in Newark has a wonderful and long-standing reputation of pro-

(Continued on page 23)



*Students and teachers of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School at an assembly in the auditorium.*

## Why it's *Branta rificollis*, of course!

The following is the winning response to Mykola Myshka's philatelic mystery. Our winner received a beautiful, full-color presentation folder produced by "Marka Ukrainy" with stamps showing animals from Ukraine. The prize was graciously donated by Ingert Kuzych, The Ukrainian Weekly's columnist on philately.

Dear UKELODEON:

The birds on Mykola Myshka's stamp are a whole family of red breasted geese (*Branta rificollis*) – a mommy, daddy and three babies. The stamp was one out of a four-set collection. There were 200,000 stamps printed of each of four values: 20, 30, 40 and 60 kopyiky.

Sincerely,  
Chrystyna Lazirko  
Age 10, Grade 4

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School, Newark, N.J.

## Immaculate Conception High focuses on careers

WARREN, Mich. – Nine alumni who came from as far away as Washington and Amherstburg, Ontario, energized the annual Career Day at Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic High School on January 17.

Sponsored by the Parents Club, guests enabled students to acquaint themselves with various professions through half-hour

rotating sessions.

Marta Kuropas Cyhan (class of '87), senior manager of consumer promotions at Kellogg's Corp., brought along Tony the Tiger, who distributed free samples of cereal. The director of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Roman Terleckyj (class of '71), encouraged students to look at unusual careers. Graphic artist John Nagridge (class of '79) spoke to students about striving for their greatest passion, while art therapist Ireneus Kozak (class of '86), showed students how art is related to psychology.

Lt. Col. Ihor Kunynskij (class of '67) of the U.S. Army focused on helicopter engineering. Hamtramck firefighter Paul Sharon (class of '73), allowed students to wear his equipment, while IRS Special Agent Marta Pryjma (class of '79) surprised students with her choice of profession.

Motivational speaker and psychologist Dr. Roman Kolodchin (class of '78), set a positive tone for Career Day, sponsored by the Parents Club and organized by Sofia Brezden Woloszczuk (class of '68).

Evaluations by students included the following comments:

- "Speakers made me notice the unnoticed."
- "Speakers represented their careers well."
- "Speakers showed the reality of their careers."

Senior Marko Melymuka observed: "Career Day gets better and better every year; it's disappointing that I will not be here next year to see more."

The school's principal, Michaeline Weigle, said, "Students of Immaculate Conception High School are fortunate to be able to participate in such an uplifting program, free of charge, through the preparation of very active parent support and dedicated alumni groups."

## St. John...

(Continued from page 22)

viding an excellent Christian education for our Ukrainian children for the past 60 years."

"At St. John's our children receive an education that is second to none. Nationally, Catholic school students consistently out-perform others on tests for math, reading and science. Our St. John's students number among those who have surpassed even the national average," he adds.

When asked by a UKELODEON reporter to use a single word to describe St. John's, the following student responses were recorded:

Grade 2: Fun. Exciting. Neat. Awesome.

Grade 4: Cool. Fascinating. Awesome.

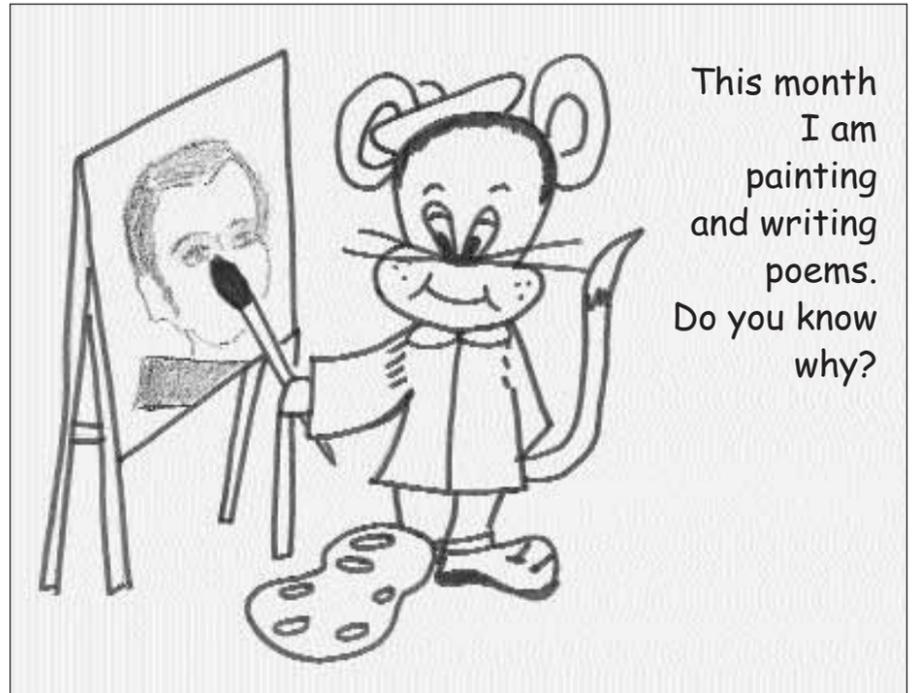
Grade 5: Great. Fun. Awesome. Well, looks like "awesome" wins.

### OUR NEXT ISSUE:

UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month. To make it into our next issue, dated April 9, please send in materials by March 31.

Please drop us a line:  
UKELODEON  
The Ukrainian Weekly  
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Parsippany, NJ 07054  
fax: (973) 644-9510  
telephone: (973) 292-9800  
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## Myshka's new hobby



## Mishanyna

M	E	D	A	L	S	N	E	D	D	I	B	R	O	F
L	Y	R	I	C	S	D	R	E	T	N	I	A	P	T
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S	I	X	L	B	D	L	A	D	U	E	F	R	R	R
A	S	A	N	O	S	N	I	B	O	R	P	R	X	A
S	O	S	H	E	N	K	O	L	Y	O	A	O	I	H
B	A	L	L	A	D	S	W	S	E	Y	W	M	A	L
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T	R	A	S	T	O	N	S	I	D	I	S	E	R	G

To solve the Mishanyna in this issue, find the words that appear in capital letters in the text below.

Every MARCH we honor the memory of TARAS SHEVCHENKO. He was born in 1814 as a SERF. At that time the country was ruled by Russia and Austria. The peasants were serfs to FEUDAL landlords.

His childhood was difficult. His mother died when he was NINE. He lost his father at age TWELVE. There were SIX children in his family. He worked as a pageboy for a landowner named ENGELHARDT.

Engelhardt traveled and brought young Taras with him. He discovered Taras's talent as a PAINTER and apprenticed him to various artists. While in St. Petersburg, Taras met SOSHENKO, who introduced him to people who eventually freed him.

Taras won several MEDALS at the Imperial ACADEMY of Fine Arts. In fact one of his drawings was engraved on steel by London engraver J.H. ROBINSON. Taras also wrote BALLADS and LYRICS. His first collection of poetry was called the "KOBZAR."

He was arrested for his writing and banished to Orenburg in ASIA. He was FORBIDDEN to write by the TSAR.

In 1857 Taras returned from exile in poor health. He died at age 47 on March 10, 1861. His memory and talent are known to all Ukrainians.

### OUR EDITORS:

UKELODEON is prepared by the editorial staff of The Ukrainian Weekly working in conjunction with Lydia Smyk, an elementary school teacher and mother of three. Ms. Smyk, who is originally from Ottawa, resides with her family in Orange, N.J.

# Volodymyr Kovalchuk

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Sunday, March 12**

**NEW YORK:** The New York City branch of the Plast Ukrainian Youth Organization invites the public to its 48th annual "novatska kostiumivka" featuring "The Circus!" The children's costume play will begin at 2:30 p.m. in the gymnasium of St. George's Ukrainian Catholic School located at the corner of Taras Shevchenko Place and Sixth Street in Manhattan.

**Monday, March 13**

**TORONTO:** St. Vladimir Institute presents the first of a three-part spring culinary series with Hanya Cirka on traditional Ukrainian cookery starting with the elegant Napoleon and almond/sherry tortes. Subsequent classes will include specialized meat dishes (patychky and roulady) and Easter breads (babka, paska, Bukovynian cheese paska). Classes will be held Mondays, April 13 and 27, as well as April 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the institute, 620 Spadina Ave. Fees: \$25 session/ \$70 series of three classes. To register call (416) 923-3318.

**Friday, March 17 and Sunday, March 19**

**NEWARK, N.J.:** Bass Stefan Szkafarowsky will perform with the New Jersey State Opera in the role of Ramfis in Verdi's "Aida." Performance dates are March 17 and 19 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. For further information and tickets, call the box office, (973) 623-5775, or fax, (973) 623-5761.

**Saturday, March 18**

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society is sponsoring a talk by Dr. Nataly Chechel, theater scholar from Kyiv, who will speak on the topic "Working on the Film About Josyp Hirniak." The presentation will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave., at 5 p.m.

**NEW HAVEN, Conn.:** A Ukrainian Easter egg-"pysanka" demonstration and workshop, sponsored by the Ukrainian Heritage Center of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, will be held in the church hall, 563 George St., at 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Participants will learn about the history, traditions and symbols of the pysanka, as well as make a cher-

ished pysanka in the traditional wax-resist technique utilizing the kistka, beeswax and dyes. The demonstration will be conducted by Gloria P. Horbaty of Wallington, Conn., lecturer and instructor of the art of pysanka-decorating. The event is open to participants of all ages; families are invited (children must be chaperoned by an adult). Donation: \$5 per participant. Needed supplies will be available for purchase at the workshop for a nominal fee. In addition, each participant is required to bring the following: two or three white, whole, raw eggs, unblemished and at room temperature in an egg carton; two short candles (six inches maximum; no votive types) and a low candleholder; a soft-leaded pencil and a small towel on which to rest the egg. For additional information or to register, call Gloria Horbaty, (203) 269-5909.

**Sunday, March 19**

**LAKE SAN MARCOS, Calif.:** Concert pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky will perform in a solo recital in the Lake San Marcos Chamber Music Society concert series, Gregory Bemko, president and artistic director. The concert program will include works by Bortniansky, Mozart, Beethoven and Chopin. The concert will be held at the Lake San Marcos Recreation Lodge, 1105 La Bonita Drive, at 2:30 p.m. For tickets and additional information call (760) 744-7516.

**Monday, March 20**

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute seminar series presents "The Basis of Civil Society in Early 20th Century Ukrainian Social Thought," with Wsevolod Isajiw, professor of sociology, and Robert F. Harney Professor of Ethnic, Immigration and Pluralism Studies, Emeritus, University of Toronto. The lecture will be held in the HURI Seminar Room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m. and will be followed by an open discussion. For further information contact Lubomyr Hajda, (617) 495-4053.

**Friday, March 24**

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Museum, 203 Second Ave., will be the site of a

(Continued on page 21)

### REMINDER REGARDING REQUIREMENTS:

Effective September 1, there is a **\$10 charge per submission** for listings in Preview of Events. The listing plus payment must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. There is also the option of prepayment for a series of listings.

Listings of **no more than 100 words** (written in Preview format) plus payment should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Information sent by fax should include a copy of a check, in the amount of \$10 per listing, made out to The Ukrainian Weekly. The Weekly's fax number is (973) 644-9510.

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